

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

\$6.95



WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

This issue of *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* contains "The Firebug" by Disney Comics legend Carl Barks. One of his lesser-known stories, it was originally published by Western Publishing in 1945 as a back-up story in issue number 108 of their "Four Color" series, a line of sequentially-numbered books that featured different comic properties from issue to issue.

At the time, Barks' ending was modified to the version you see here. Originally, Barks conceived Donald's shenanigans as actually taking place. The editors at Western felt the notion of Donald really being a firebug – for whatever reason – was not acceptable and came up with the concept of the whole drama being a dream.

Perhaps because of the early controversy surrounding the story, it was not reprinted in comic book form until forty-three years later, when Gladstone Publishing printed it in issue number three of their *Mickey and Donald*, in 1988. Now, sixteen years after that, Gemstone is happy to present once again this often-overlooked Barks classic, for the first-time enjoyment of our younger fans and for the nostalgic enjoyment of our long-time readers.

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **Story, Art & Lettering:**
WHAT A DRAG William Van Horn
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

Mickey Mouse **Story:** Pat & Carol McGreal
FOR ART'S SAKE **Art:** Rodriques
Color: Scott Rockwell
Lettering: Willie Schubert

Big Bad Wolf **Story:** Evert Geradts
A WOLF AND HIS DOG **Art:** Bardon
Color: Terry Letterman
Lettering: John Clark

Daisy Duck **Story:** Christopher Spencer
DUCKBURG DONUTS **Art:** Anibal
Color: Marie Javins
Lettering: Willie Schubert

Huey, Dewey & Louie **Story:** Donne Avenell
THE MOSTER PIKE OF **Art:** Branca
KILLYCRANKIE **Color:** Barry (Englin) Grossman
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Donald Duck **Story & Art:** Carl Barks
THE FIREBUG (*Donald Duck Four Color* 108,
January 1946)
Color: Eric Vincent

Front cover art by Ferioli, color by Gary Leach



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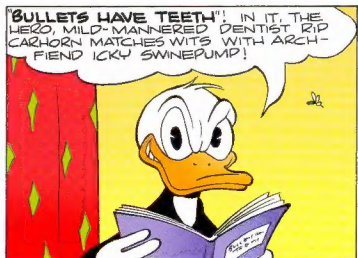
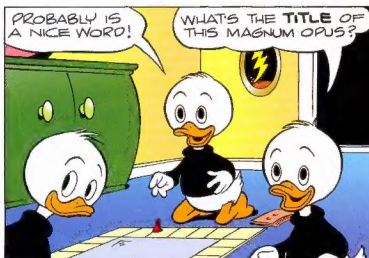
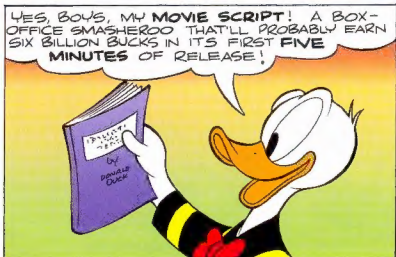
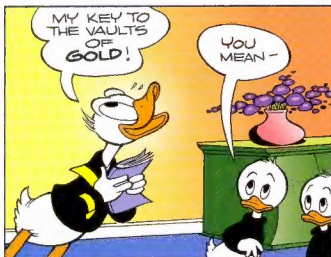
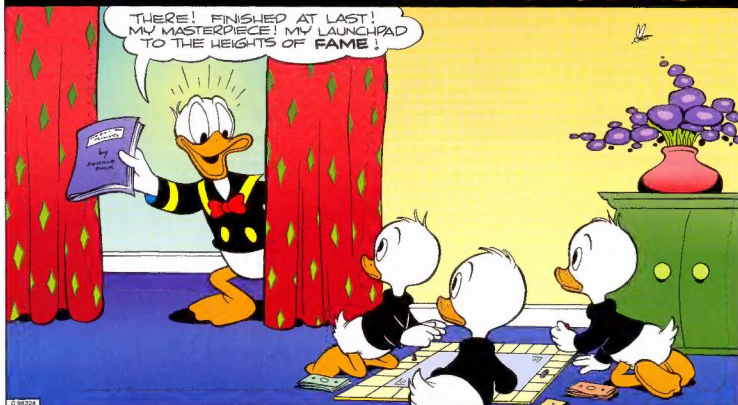
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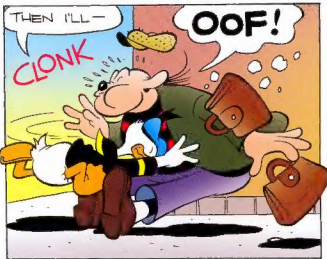
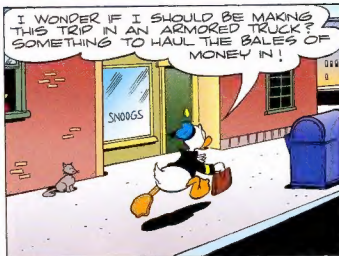
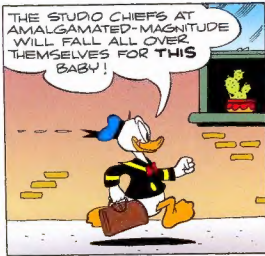
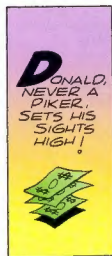
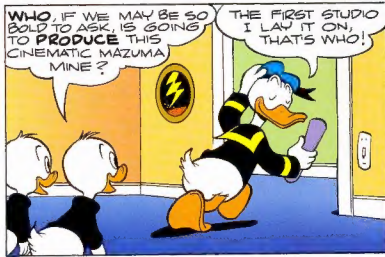
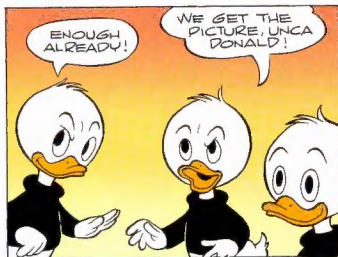
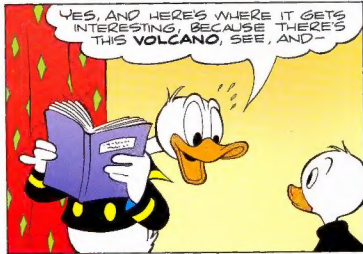
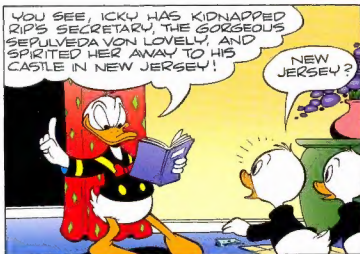


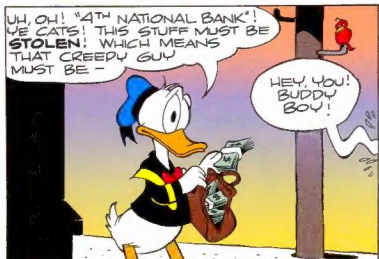
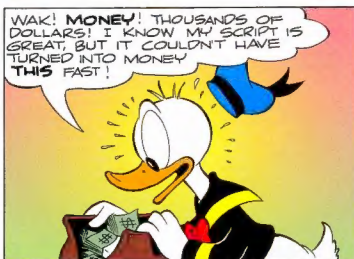
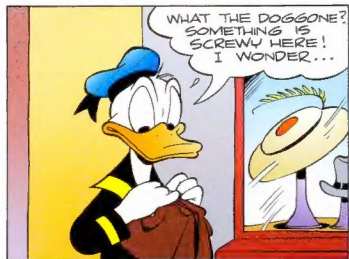
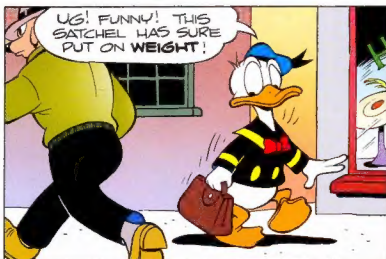
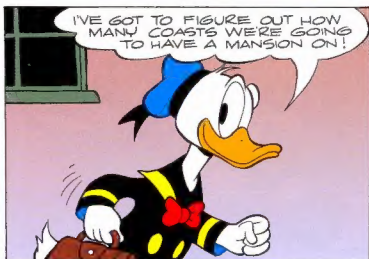
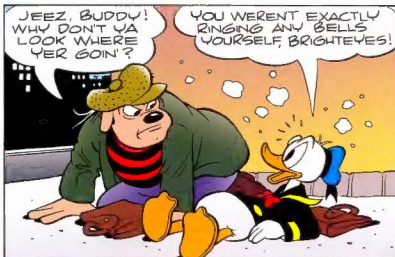
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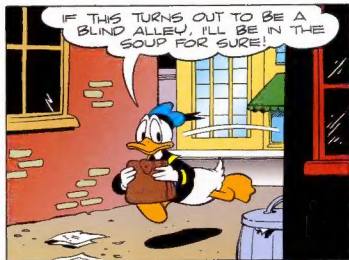
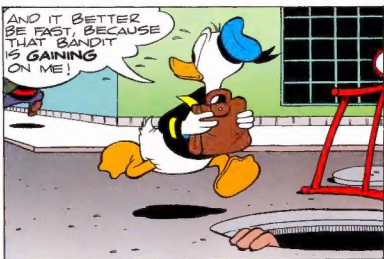
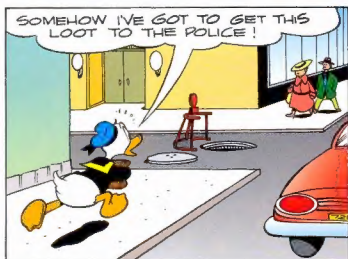
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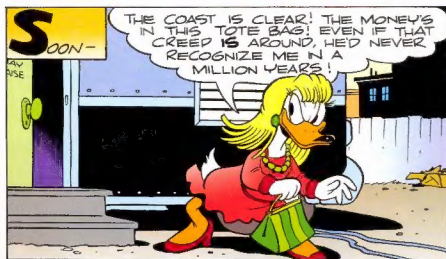
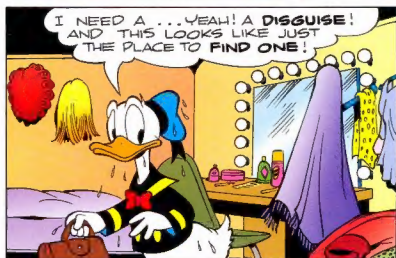
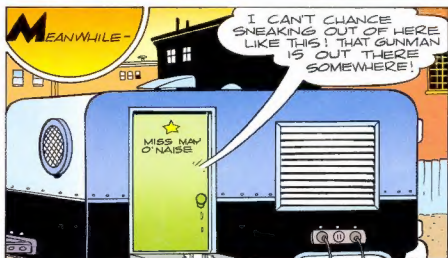
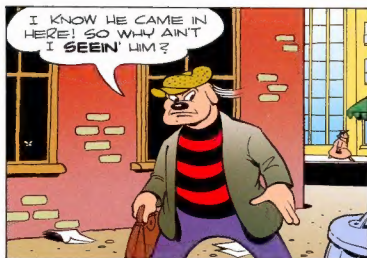
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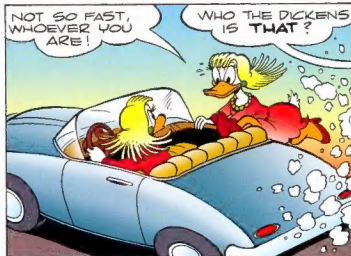
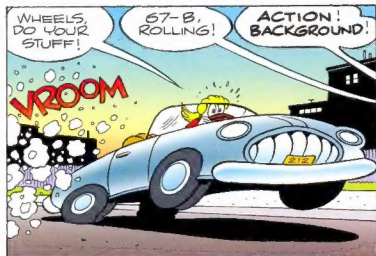
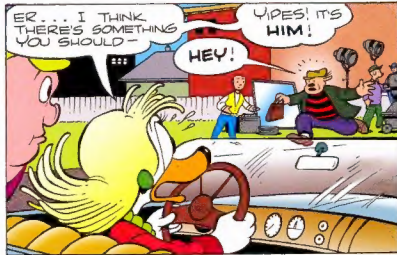
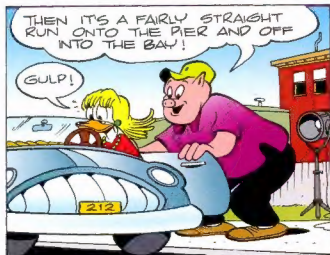
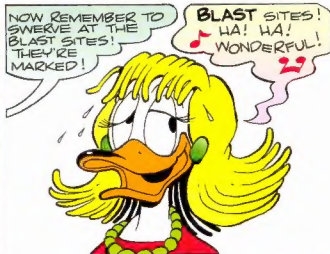
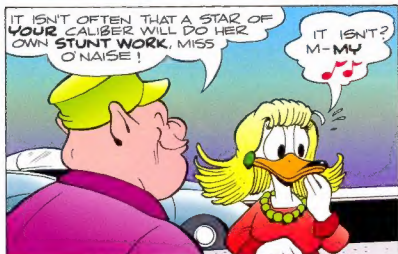
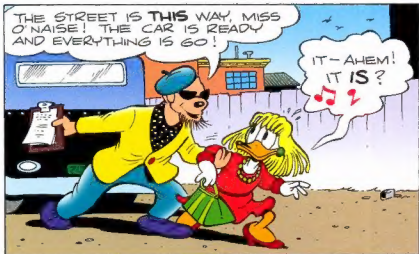


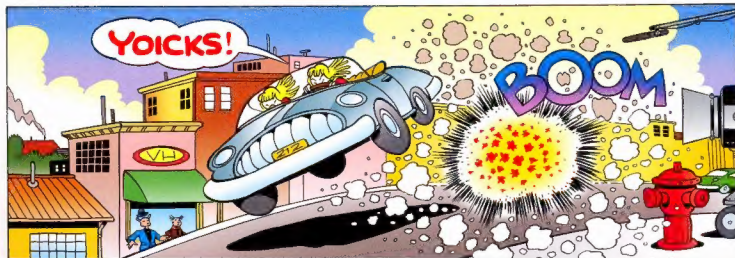
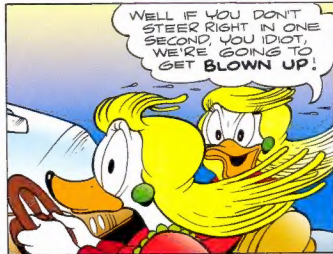
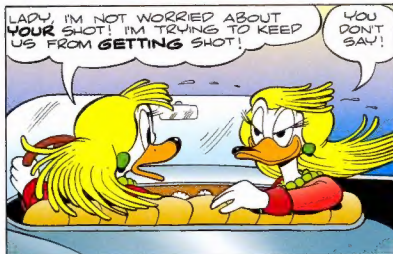
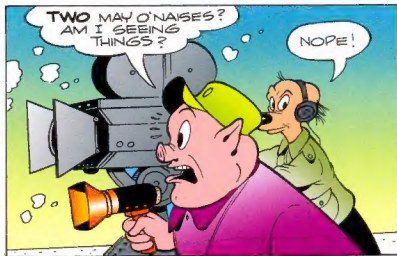
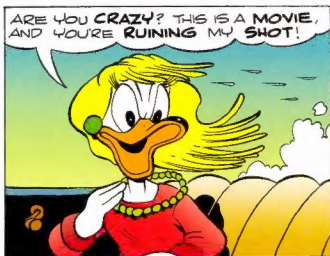
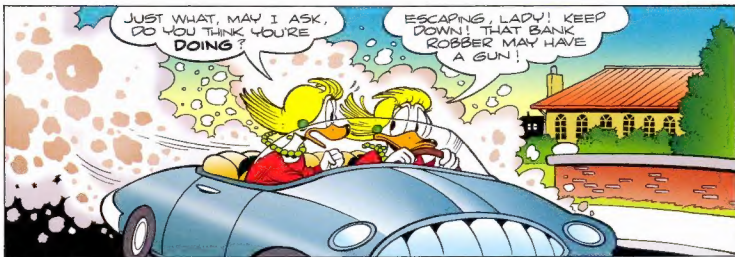


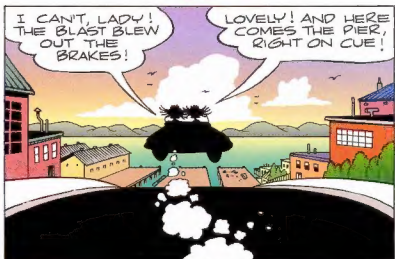
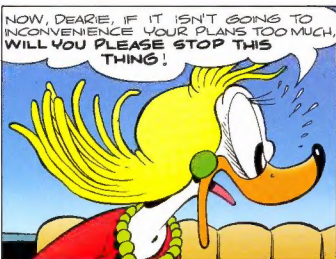
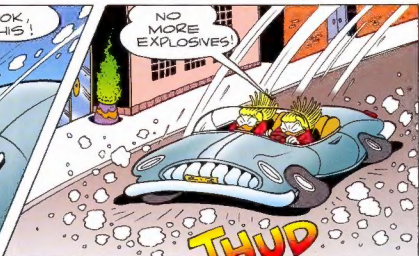
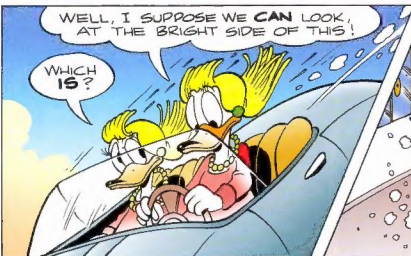
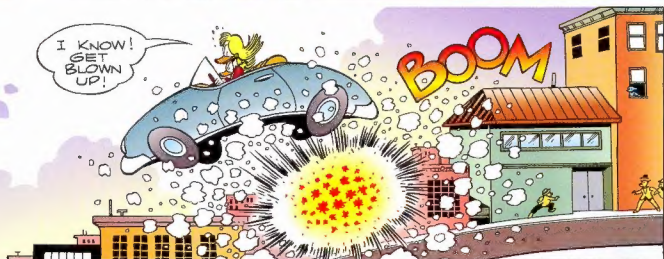


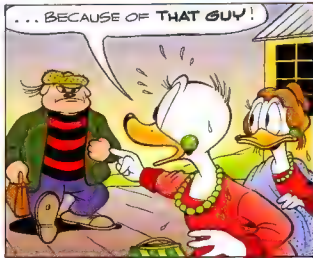
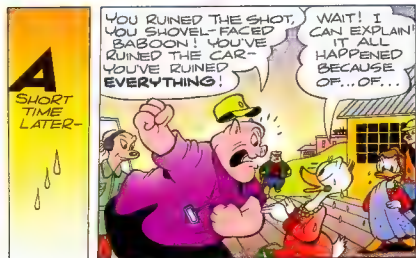
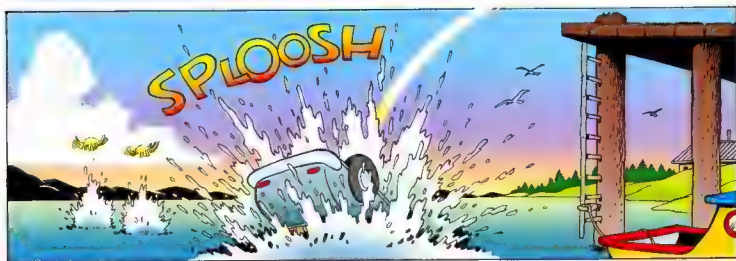
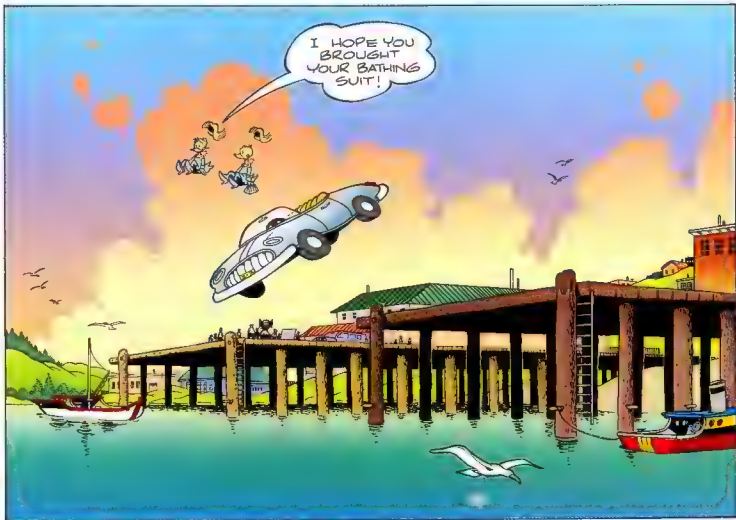


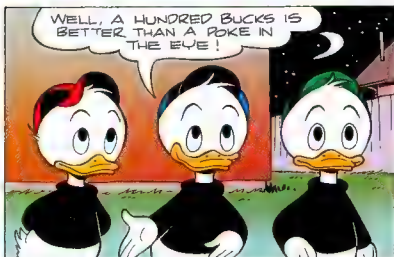
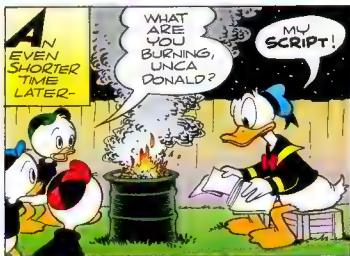
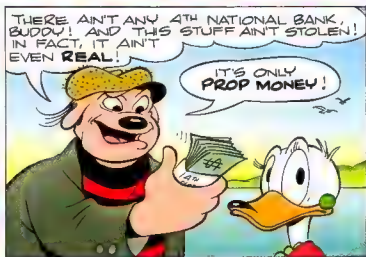
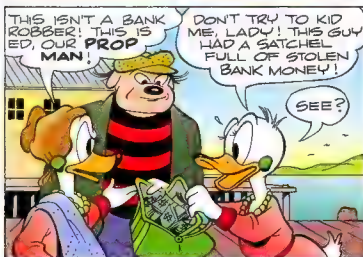
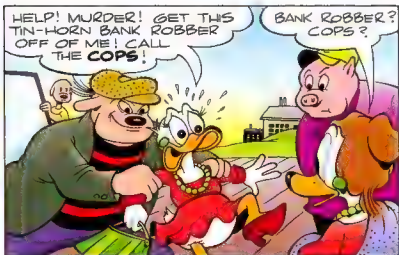








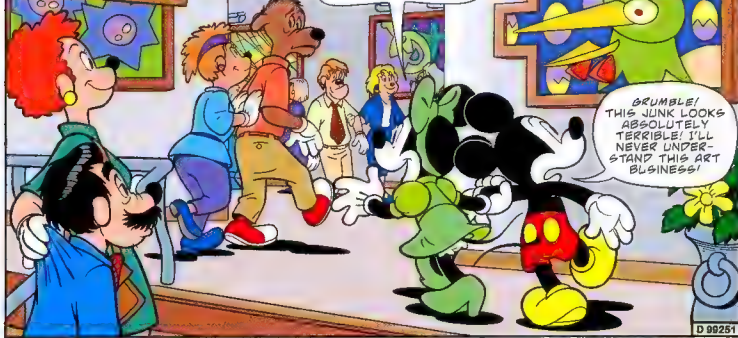




MINNIE HAS DRAGGED A LESS-THAN-ENTHUSIASTIC MICKEY TO AN AFTERNOON TEA AND ART EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY THE LADIES' AUXILIARY—

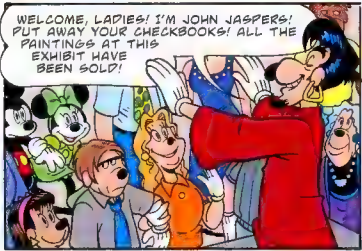
OUR GUEST OF HONOR IS NONE OTHER THAN THE FAMOUS MODERN PAINTER, JOHN JASPERS! THESE ARE SOME OF HIS MOST CELEBRATED WORKS, MICKEY!

GRUMBLE! THIS JUNK LOOKS ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE! I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS ART BUSINESS!



D 99251

WELCOME, LADIES! I'M JOHN JASPERS! PUT AWAY YOUR CHECKBOOKS! ALL THE PAINTINGS AT THIS EXHIBIT HAVE BEEN SOLD!



HOWEVER, I'LL BE PAINTING A NEW MASTERPIECE THAT WILL BE UNVEILED NEXT WEEK AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW ART MUSEUM!

SHEESH! WHAT A POMPOUS CLOWN!



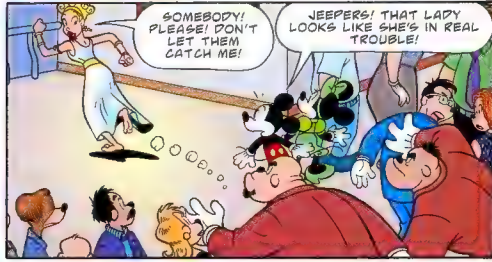
REST ASSURED, EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THE ART WORLD WILL BE... EH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?

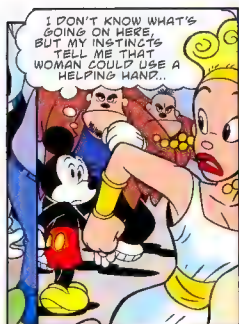
HELP! HELP!



SOMEBODY! PLEASE! DON'T LET THEM CATCH ME!

JEEPERS! THAT LADY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN REAL TROUBLE!





I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT MY INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT WOMAN COULD USE A HELPING HAND...



...OR FOOT!

HURFF!!

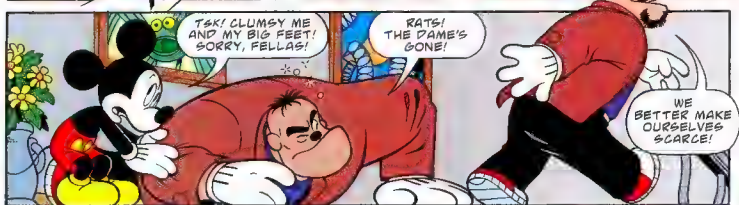


WHOOPS!

KAA-THUMP!

NOW! LOOK OUT!

HEY! WATCHIT, YA BIG LUMMOX!!



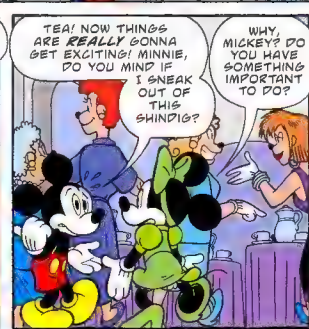
TSK! CLUMSY ME AND MY BIG FEET! SORRY, FELLAS!

RATS! THE DAME'S GONE!

WE BETTER MAKE OURSELVES SCARCE!

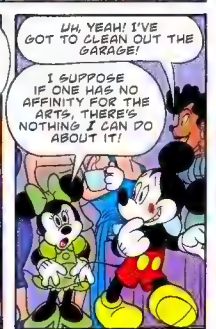


MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES, LADIES! I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHO THOSE PEOPLE WERE! EXCUSE ME WHILE I ALERT SECURITY! ENJOY YOUR TEA!



TEA! NOW THINGS ARE REALLY GONNA GET EXCITING! MINNIE, DO YOU MIND IF I SNEAK OUT OF THIS SHINDIG?

WHY, MICKEY? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO?



UH, YEAH! I'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE!

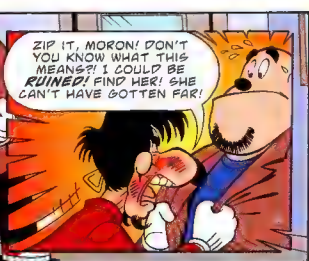
I SUPPOSE IF ONE HAS NO AFFINITY FOR THE ARTS, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!

IN ONE OF THE GALLERY'S PRIVATE ROOMS—



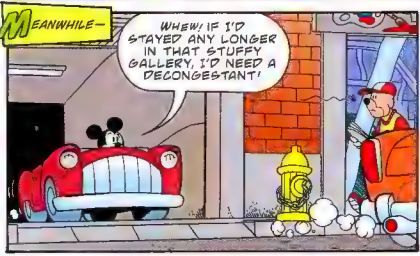
FOOLS!
HOW COULD YOU LET THE WOMAN ESCAPE?!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BOSS! DIDJA SEE THE SIZE OF THAT ROPEY'S CLODHOOPPERS?!

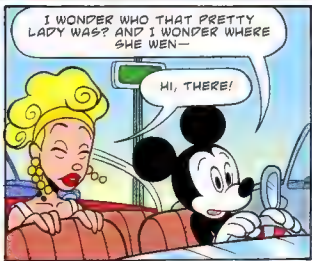


ZIP IT, MORON! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?! I COULD BE RUINED! FIND HER! SHE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!

MEANWHILE—

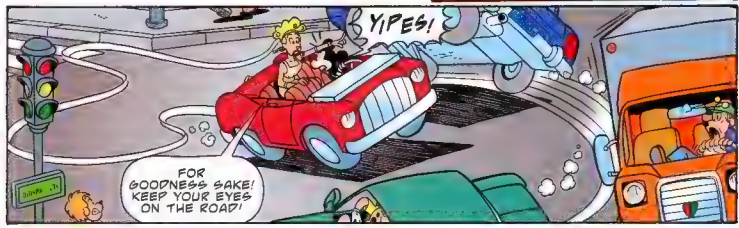


WHOW! IF I'D STAYED ANY LONGER IN THAT STUFFY GALLERY, I'D NEED A DECONGESTANT!



I WONDER WHO THAT PRETTY LADY WAS? AND I WONDER WHERE SHE WEN—

HI, THERE!



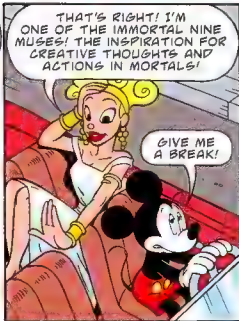
YIPES!

FOR GOODNESS SAKE! KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!



I WANTED TO THANK YOU! MY NAME IS THALIA! PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF ME? I'M A MUSE!

A-A MUSE? YOU MEAN MUSE LIKE IN THE CLASSICAL GREEK MUSES?



THAT'S RIGHT! I'M ONE OF THE IMMORTAL NINE MUSES! THE INSPIRATION FOR CREATIVE THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS IN MORTALS!

GIVE ME A BREAK!

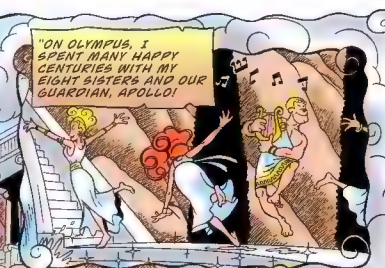


IT'S TRUE! I'M A DAUGHTER OF ZEUS! OLDER THAN MANKIND!

YEAH! RIGHT! AND I'M A CHARACTER IN A COMIC BOOK!



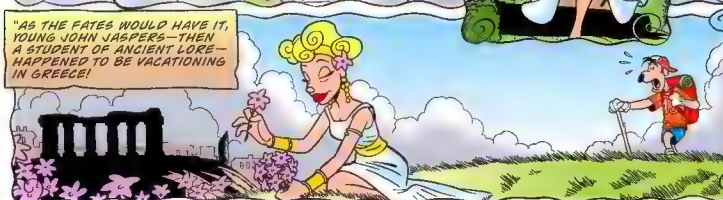
"YOU DOUBT ME, SO I WILL EXPLAIN! AGES AGO, THE GODS DECIDED TO STOP MEDDLING IN HUMAN AFFAIRS! IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH OF A HEADACHE, SO WE RETIRED TO OUR PALACE ATOP MOUNT OLYMPUS!



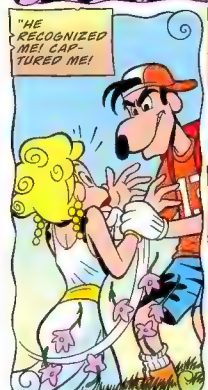
"ON OLYMPUS, I SPENT MANY HAPPY CENTURIES WITH MY EIGHT SISTERS AND OUR GUARDIAN, APOLLO!



"BUT ONE DAY, I DECIDED TO GO DOWN TO EARTH TO GATHER SOME WILD FLOWERS!



"AS THE FATES WOULD HAVE IT, YOUNG JOHN JASPERS—THEN A STUDENT OF ANCIENT LORE—HAPPENED TO BE VACATIONING IN GREECE!



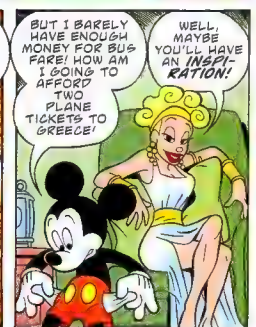
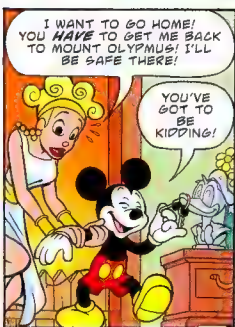
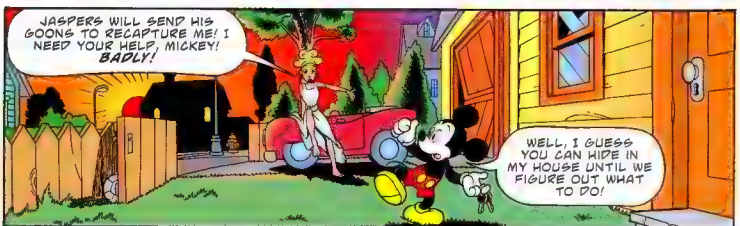
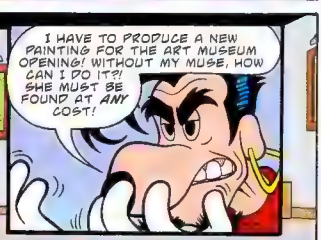
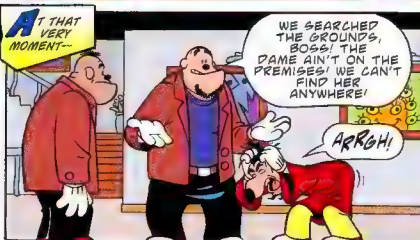
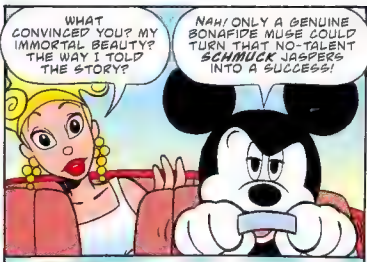
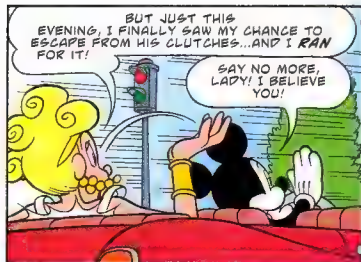
"HE RECOGNIZED ME! CAPTURED ME!



"SPIRITED ME BACK TO HIS HOME!



"FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, I HAVE BEEN HIS UNWILLING INSPIRATION! AND HE HAS BECOME A WORLD FAMOUS ARTIST!"



THE NEXT DAY, MICKEY MULLS OVER THE SITUATION WHILE HE CLEANS HIS GARAGE—

BOY! THERE'S SURE A LOT OF OLD JUNK TO THROW OUT! BUT, FOR SOME REASON, **TODAY** THE JUNK DOESN'T LOOK LIKE JUNK!

HM! I'LL BET I COULD CREATE SOMETHING INTERESTING OUT OF THIS MESS...

SHORTLY—

GOSH! I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** I'M DOING, BUT IT SURE FEELS GOOD!

OH, WHAT STUNNING ARTFUL PIECES! THEY'RE A WORK OF **GENIUS**!

HUH? 'SCUSE ME? GENIUS?!

LOOK AT HIM! FILLED WITH CREATIVE SPIT! HE'S SO CUTE! NOW, IT'S TIME FOR THE FATES TO LEND A HAND!

YOU MUST BE THE BRILLIANT, TORTURED YOUNG ARTIST RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE TREASURES! ARE THEY FOR SALE?!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, INSPIRED SAVANT! I'M OFF TO THE ART CRITIC OF THE SNOOTY CITY SENTINEL!

HUH?

IN TWO SHAKES OF A MOUSE'S TAIL...

TELL ME, MR. MOUSE! WHAT IS THE UNDERLYING THINKING IN THE TWISTED STRUCTURES OF YOUR SINGULAR VISION?

WELL...IT'S JUST A BUNCHA JUNK...

BRILLIANT! AS YOUR APOSTLE, I AM PREPARED TO SPREAD THE WORD!

EH?

WORD SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE—

OH, MICKEY! LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO'VE COME TO SEE YOUR WORK! I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD ARTISTIC INCLINATIONS!

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION? ARE YOU KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME?

TEE HEE!

MR. MOUSE! MAY I CALL YOU MICKEY? I'M TONY TONEY, OWNER OF THE TONEY GALLERY!

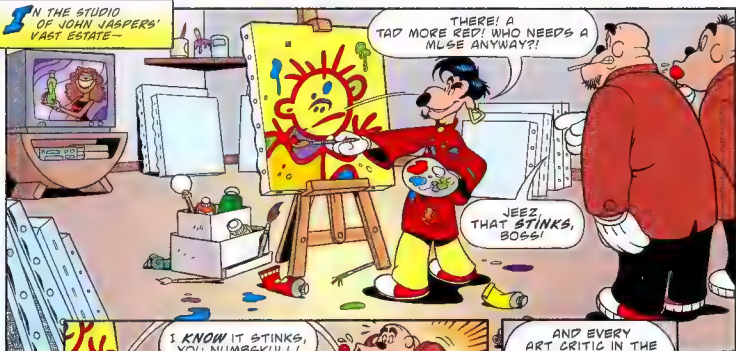
UM... HI...

DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE THE BIGGEST THING IN THE ART WORLD SINCE...~~SEE~~ THE LAST BIGGEST THING?!

YOU'VE JUST GOT TO EXHIBIT AT THE TONEY! I CAN SELL THESE INSTALLATIONS AT TOP DOLLAR! HAVE WE A DEAL?!

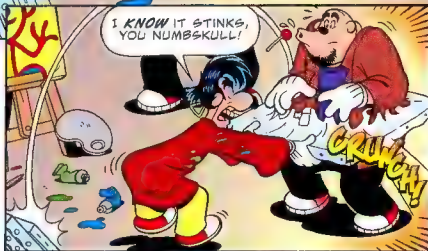
I... I GUESS SO...

IN THE STUDIO
OF JOHN JASPERS'
VAST ESTATE—



THERE! A
TAD MORE RED! WHO NEEDS A
MUSE ANYWAY?!

JEEZ,
THAT STINKS,
BOSS!



I KNOW IT STINKS,
YOU NUMBSKULL!

CRUNCH!



AND EVERY
ART CRITIC IN THE
COUNTRY IS COMING
TO THE UNVEILING
NEXT WEEK! THEY'LL
ALL SAY IT STINKS!



I NEED MY MUSE
BACK! WAIT! WHAT'S
THAT?!

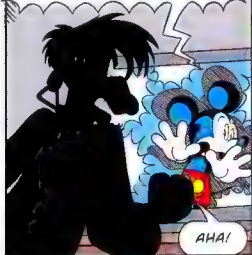
THE
ART WORLD
IS FALLING ALL
OVER ITSELF TO
PRAISE M. CKEY
MOUSE!



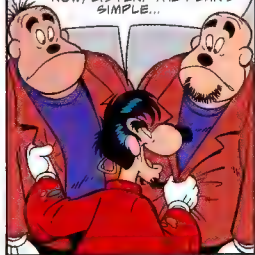
HIS
EXCIT-
ING,
EXCLUSIVE OPENING AT THE
TONEY ART GALLERY IS SURE
TO KEEP TONGUES WAGGING
FOR MONTHS!

THAT'S IT! THIS
RODENT CAME OUT
OF NOWHERE! HIS ART
HAS TO BE THE WORK
OF THE MUSE!

THE LITTLE SQUIRT'LL
BE AT THE OPENING! THIS
MEANS THE MUSE WILL BE
UNPROTECTED AT HIS HOME!
NOW, LISTEN! THE PLAN'S
SIMPLE...



AHA!



**THE BIG DAY
ARRIVES—**

YOU'VE GOT THE
KNOT WRONG!

GRR! THIS
ART THING IS
NOT MY CUP OF
TEA!

SOON I'LL BE
SURROUNDED BY
SIMPERING PHONIES
AND PREENING
PEACOCKS!
BRRRR!!

YOU
LOOK **VERY**
HANDSOME!

I'M ONLY GOING
FOR THE MONEY MY
SCULPTURES WILL BRING!
WITH THAT DOUGH, I'LL
BE ABLE TO RETURN YOU
TO YOUR HOME
IN GREECE!

DON'T THINK YOU
FOOL ME FOR A MINUTE,
THALIA! I KNOW THIS IS
ALL YOUR DOING! NOW SIT
TIGHT! I'LL BE BACK IN
A FLASH WITH THE
CASH!

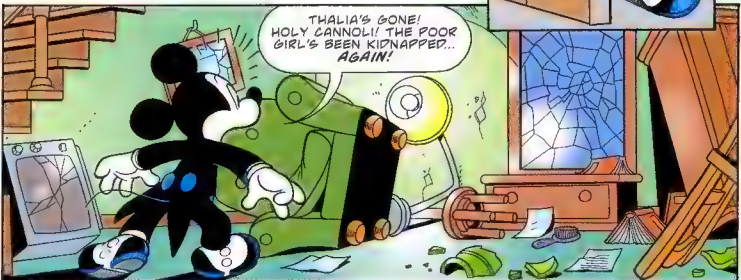
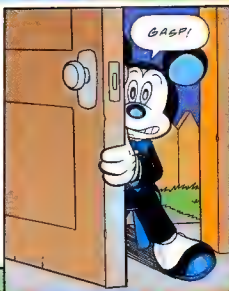
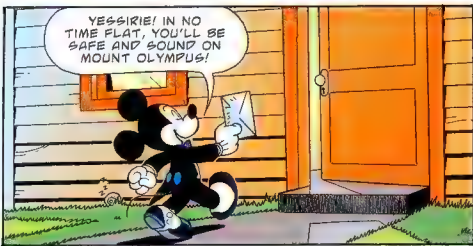
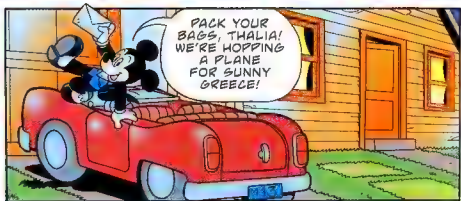
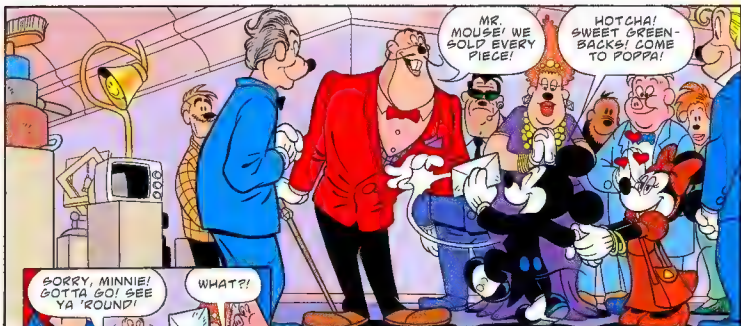
THERE
HE GOES!
LET'S
MOVE!

HEH! HEH!
THAT LITTLE
SKIRT'S GONNA
BE SURPRISED
TO SEE US!

KLICK!

MICKEY? IS THAT
YOU? DID YOU FORGET
SOMETHING?

EEEEEEKK!



CONCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE!

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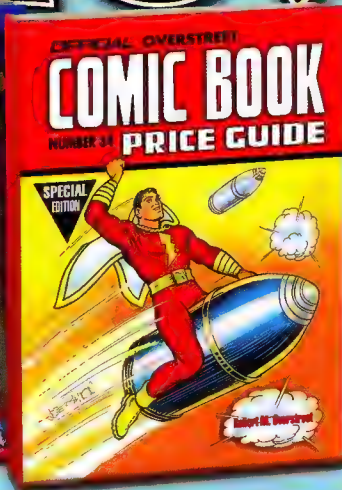
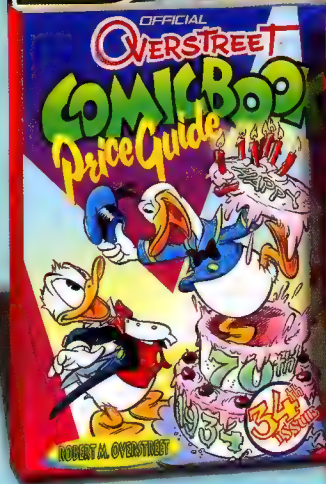
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Walt Disney's
Big Bad Wolf

DOGGONE
IT! THAT DARN BRER
FOX JUST BEAT ME
TO BRER BEAR'S
HENS!

H 8862

SNEAKY VARMINTS LIKE HIM
ARE A DISGRACE TO US
THIEVES!

WOOOO OOOOO!

WHAT'S
THAT AWFUL
RACKET?

A DOG! AND IT'S ALL
ALONE! I WONDER WHO
LEFT IT HERE?

OOOO!

GO HOME!
SKEDADDLE!

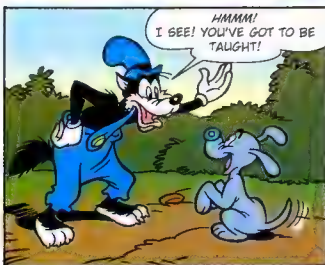
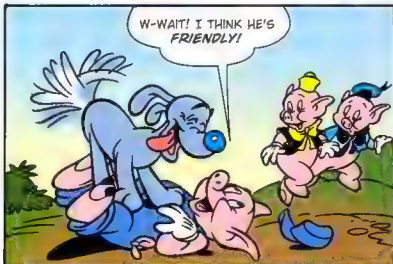
GO FIND YER
MASTER!

WELL, YOU CAN
STAY THERE!

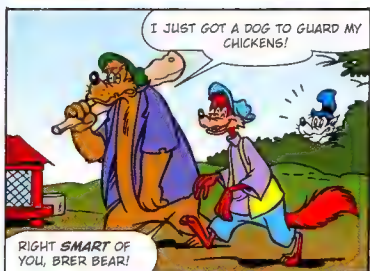
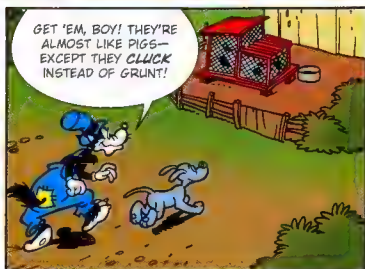
I AIN'T TAKIN' YA
WITH ME! DOGS ARE
ONLY GOOD FER...

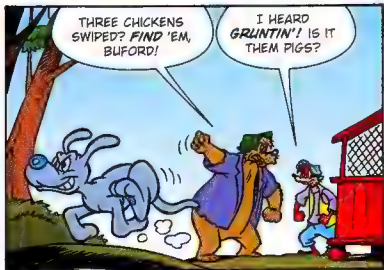
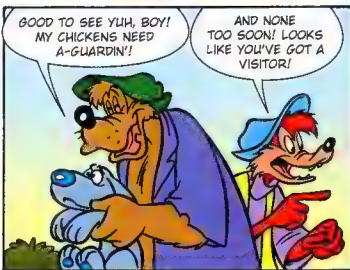
...HUNTING!

C'MERE, YOU LITTLE
PIG-CATCHER!



AFTER HOURS OF TRAINING...



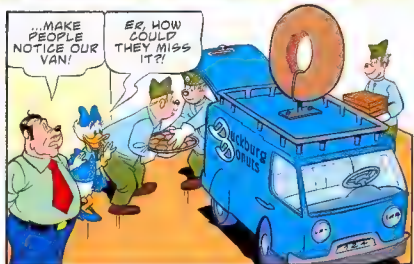
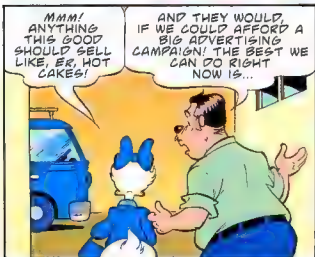
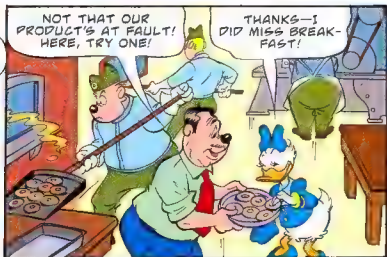
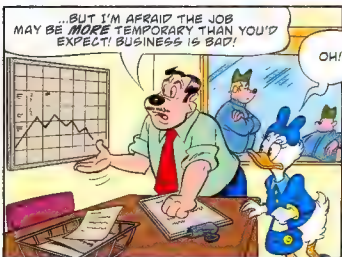
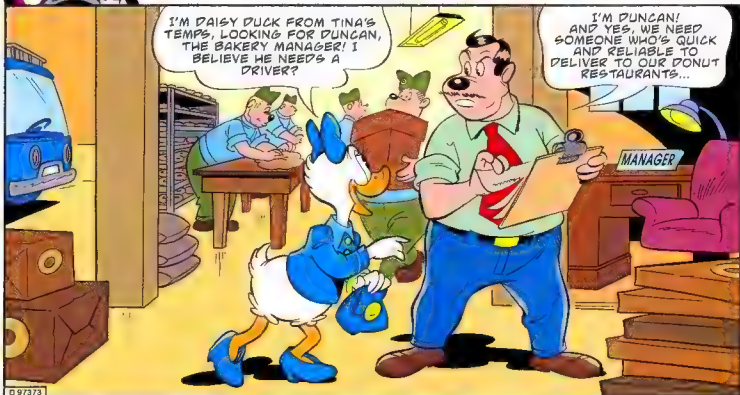


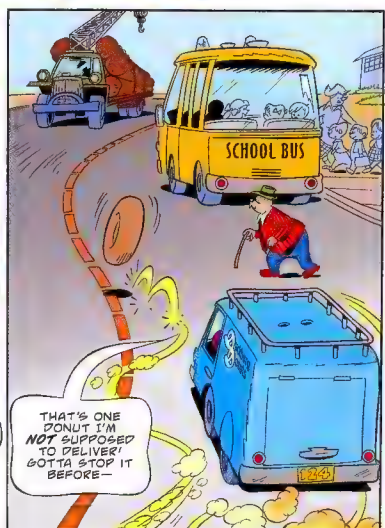
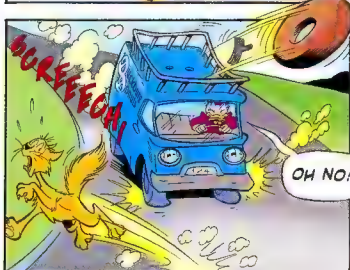
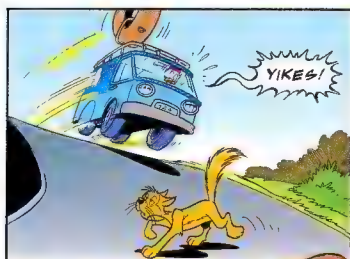
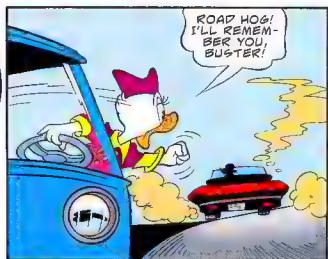
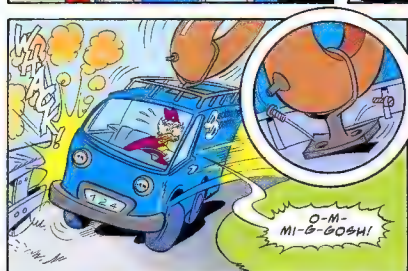
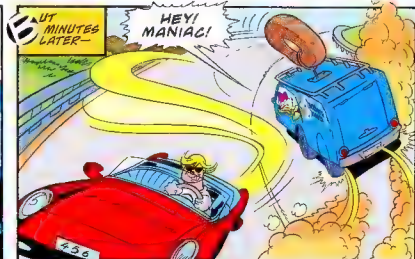
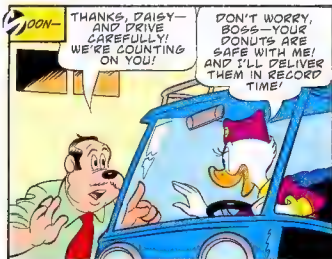


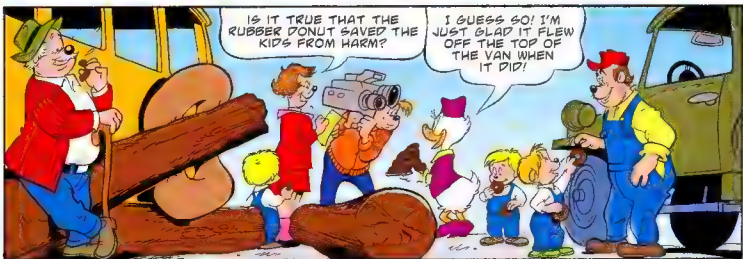
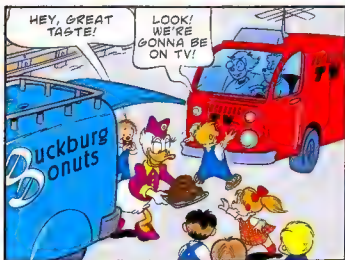
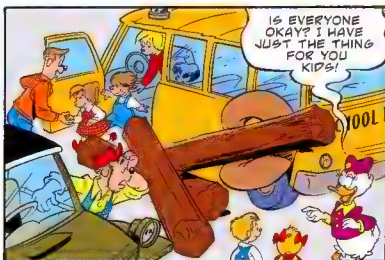
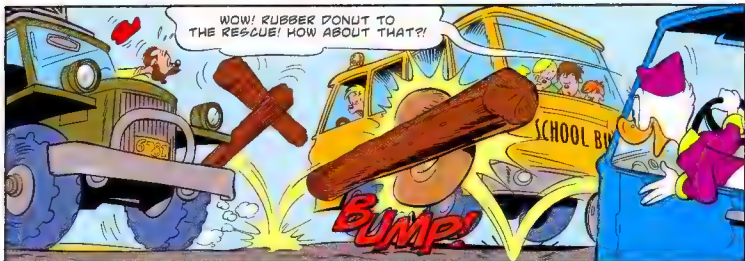
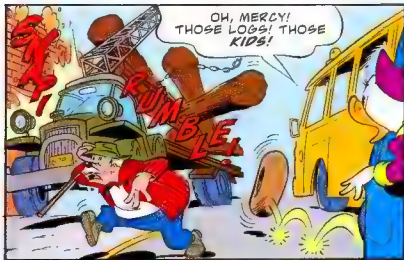
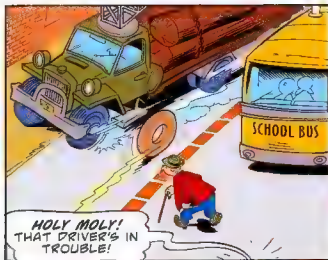
WALT DISNEY'S

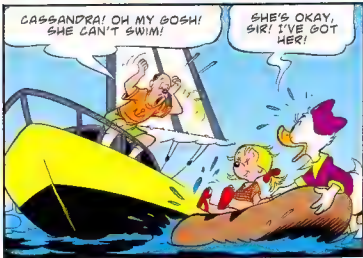
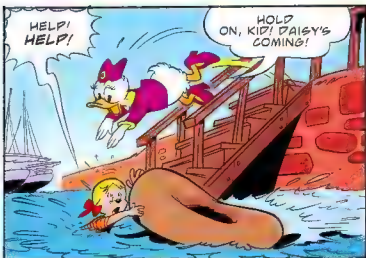
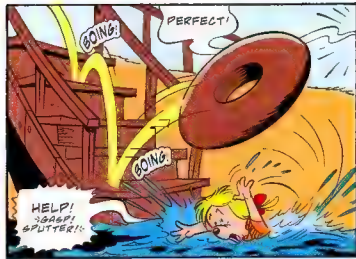
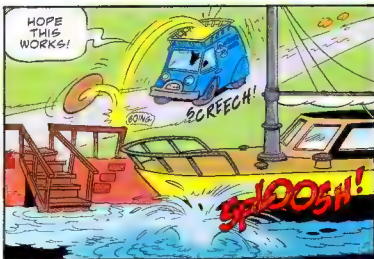
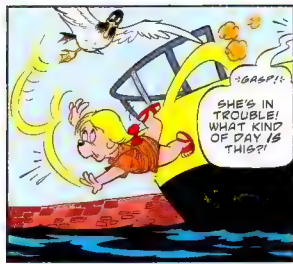
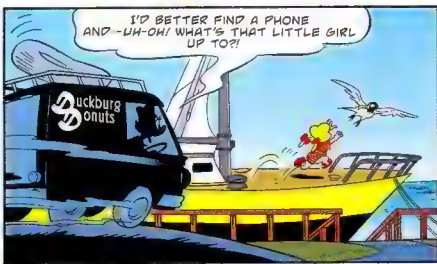
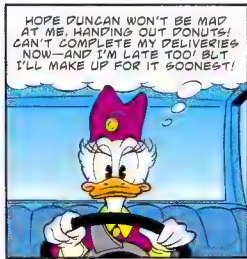
Daisy Duck

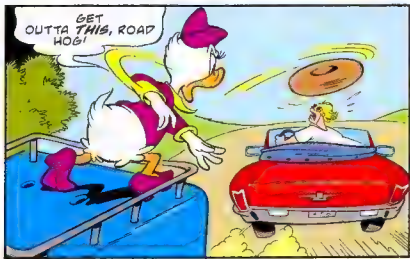
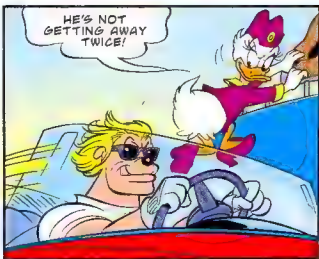
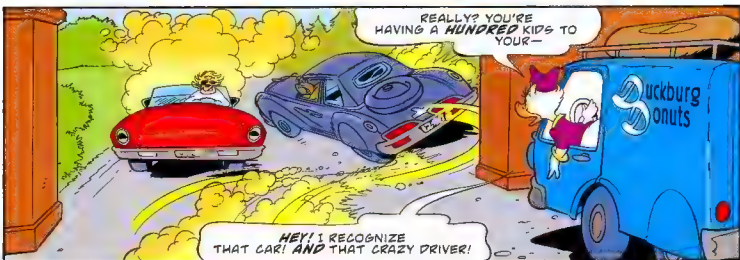
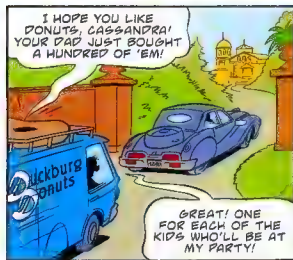
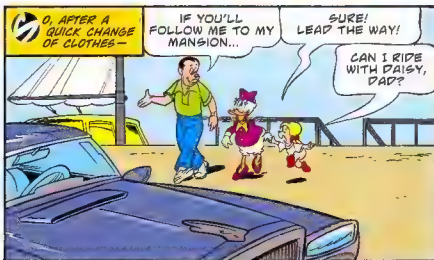
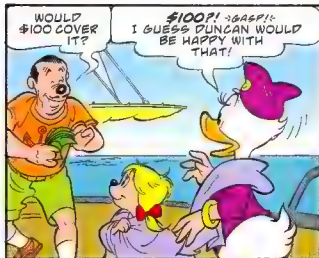
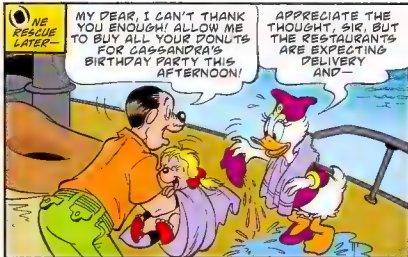
in Duckburg Donuts

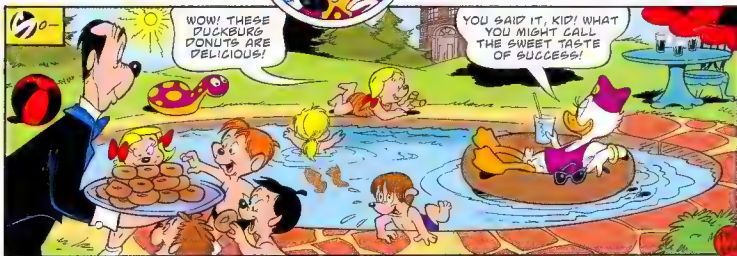
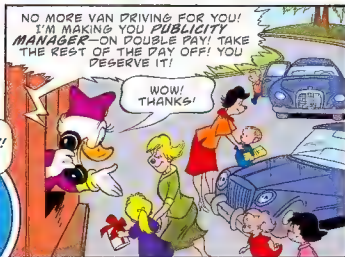
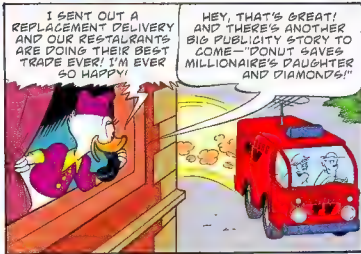
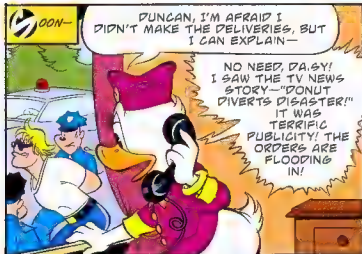
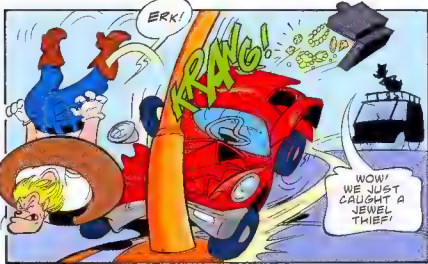








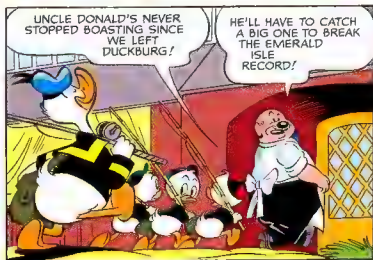


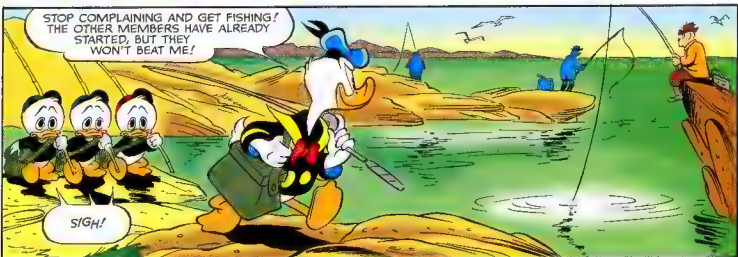
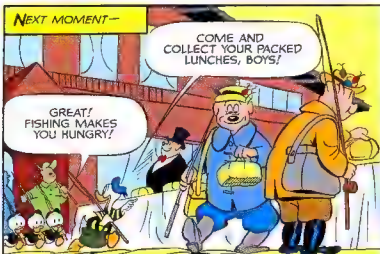
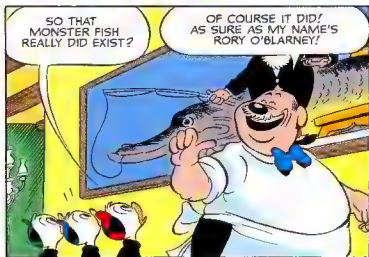
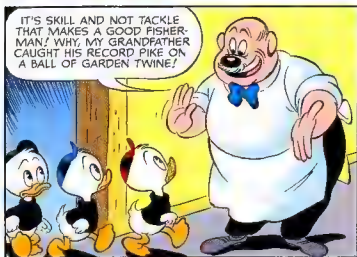
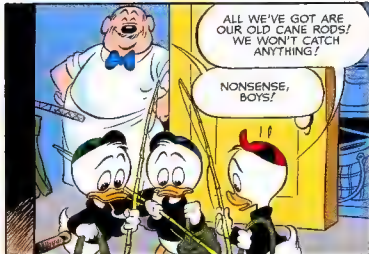
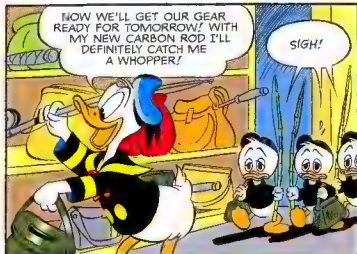


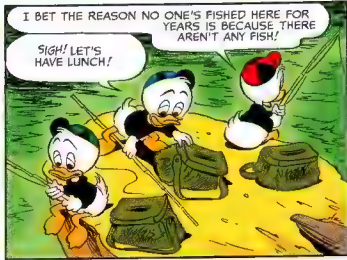
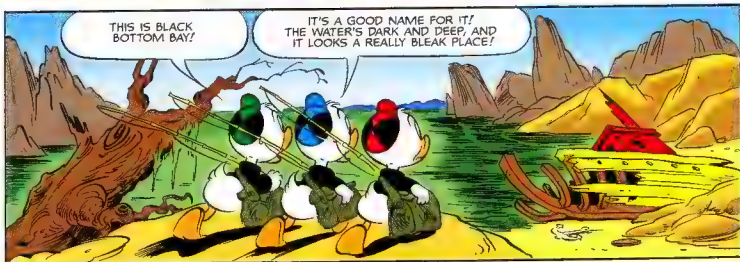
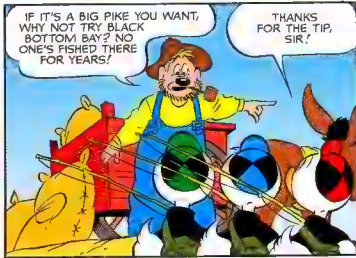
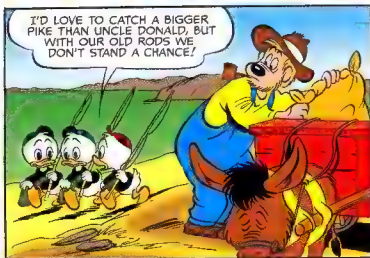
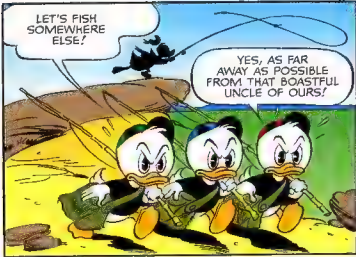
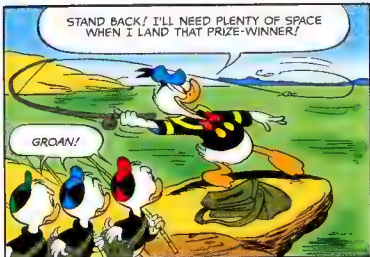
WALT DISNEY'S

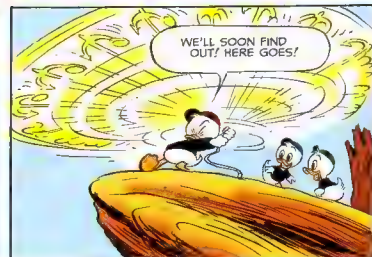
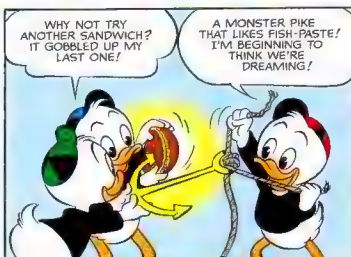
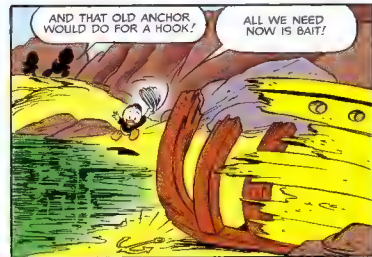
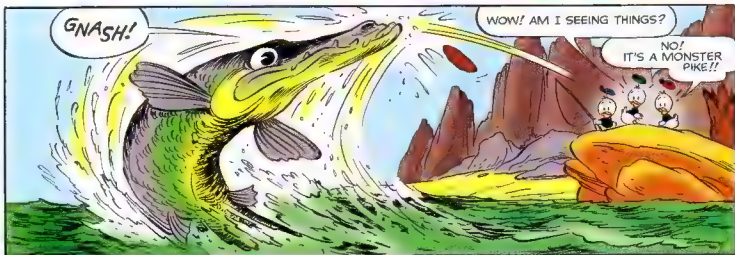
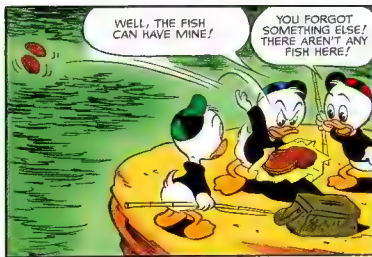
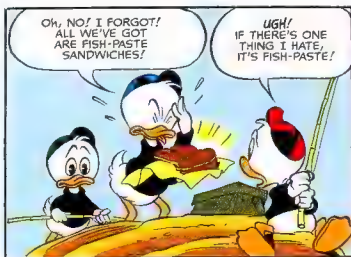
Huey, Dewey & Louie

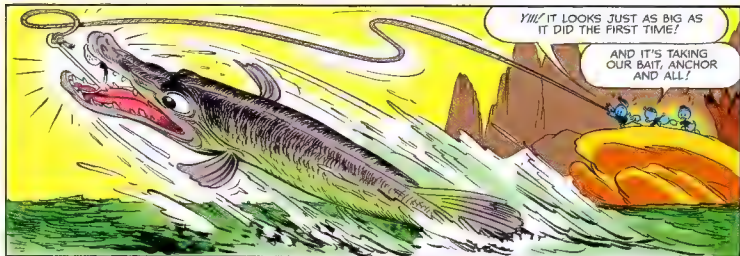
THE
MONSTER PIKE
OF
KILLYCRANKIE





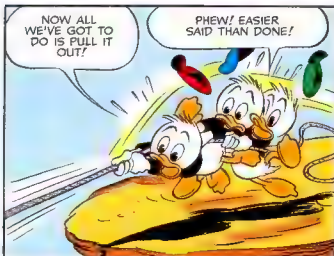






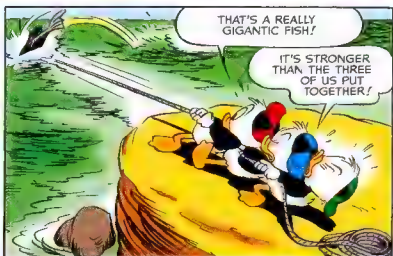
YIP! IT LOOKS JUST AS BIG AS IT DID THE FIRST TIME!

AND IT'S TAKING OUR BAIT, ANCHOR AND ALL!



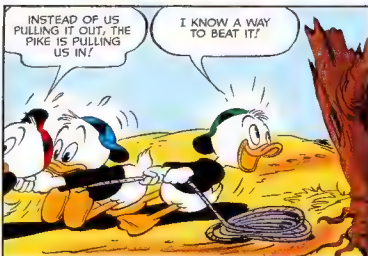
NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS PULL IT OUT!

PHWEH! EASIER SAID THAN DONE!



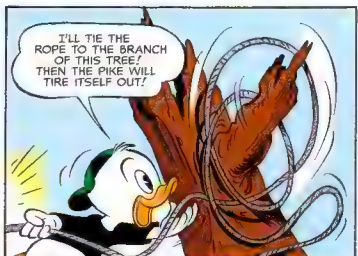
THAT'S A REALLY GIGANTIC FISH!

IT'S STRONGER THAN THE THREE OF US PUT TOGETHER!

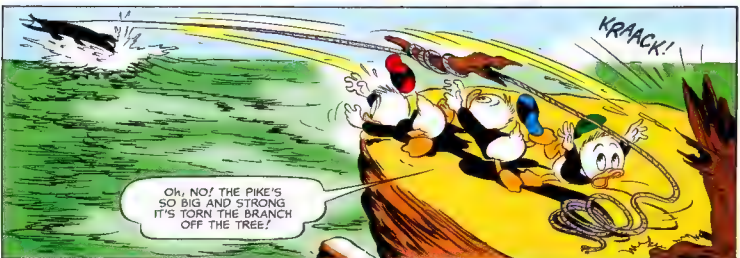


INSTEAD OF US PULLING IT OUT, THE PIKE IS PULLING US IN!

I KNOW A WAY TO BEAT IT!

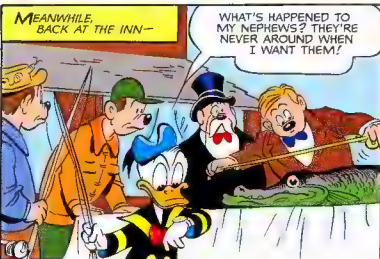
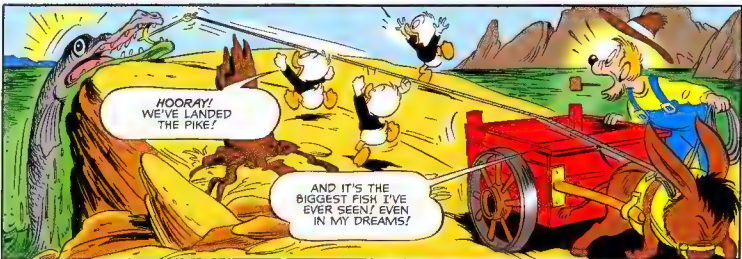
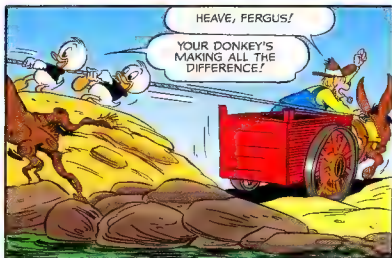
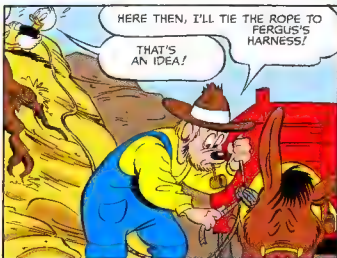
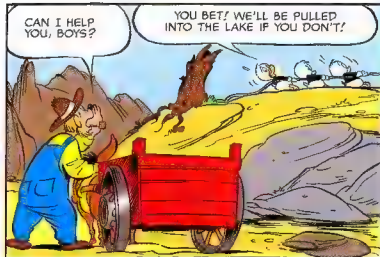


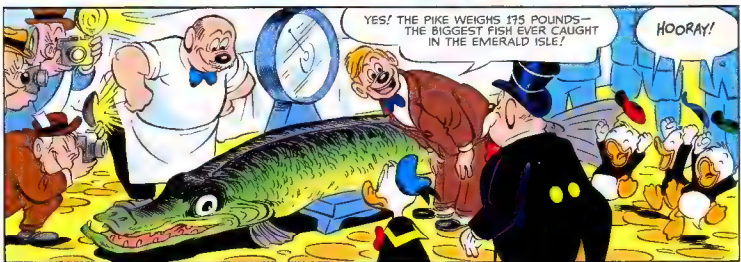
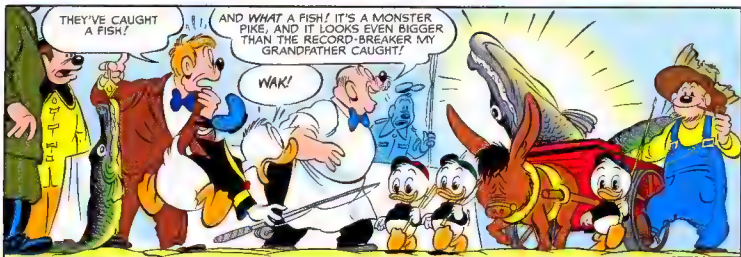
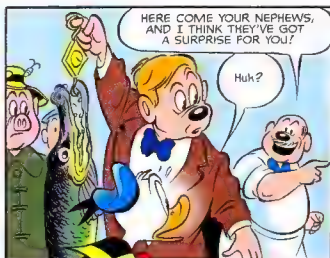
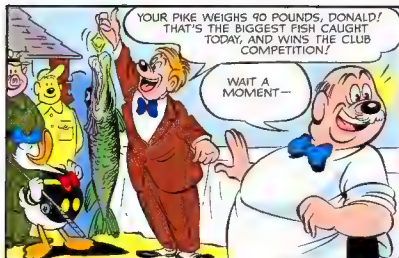
I'LL TIE THE ROPE TO THE BRANCH OF THIS TREE! THEN THE PIKE WILL TIRE ITSELF OUT!

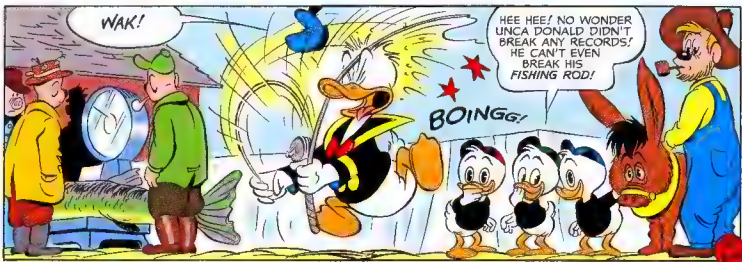
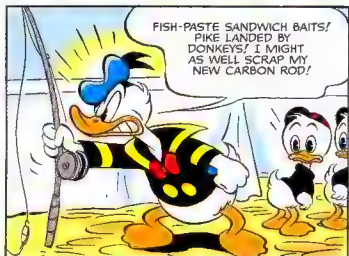
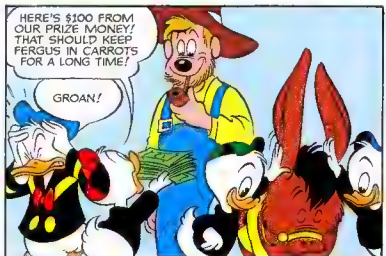
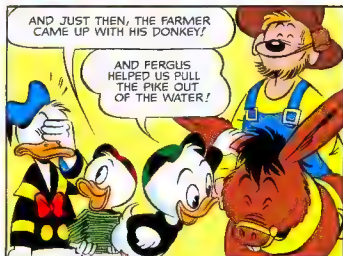
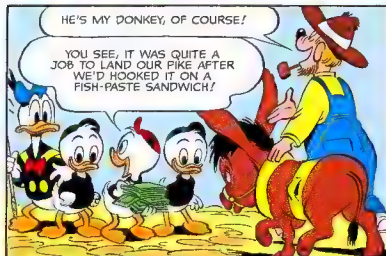
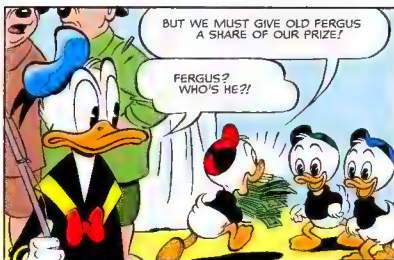
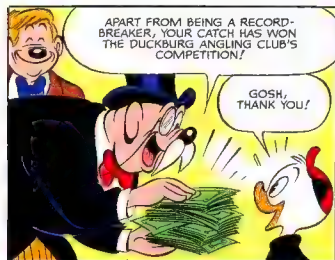


KRAACK!

OH, NO! THE PIKE'S SO BIG AND STRONG IT'S TORN THE BRANCH OFF THE TREE!





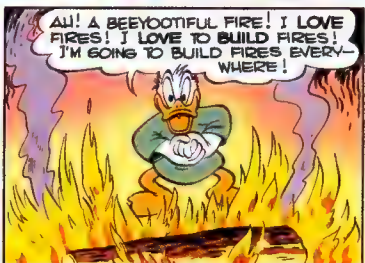
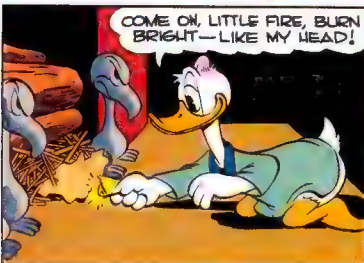


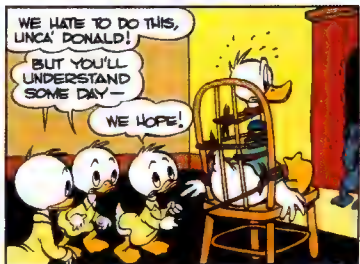
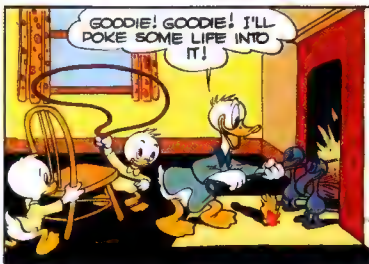
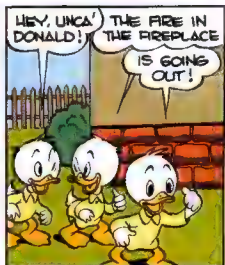
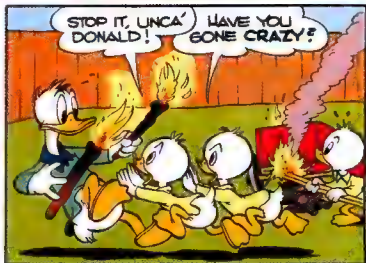
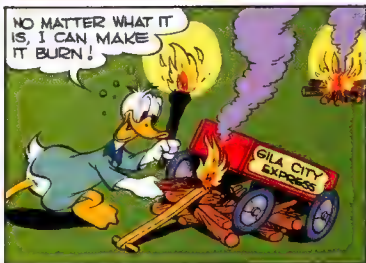
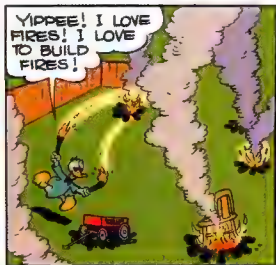
WALT DISNEY
presents
Donald Duck
in
THE FIREBUG

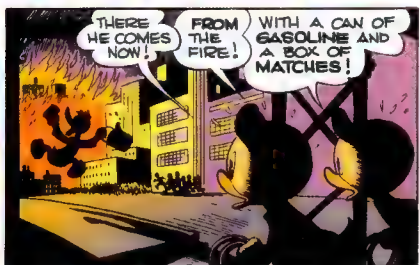
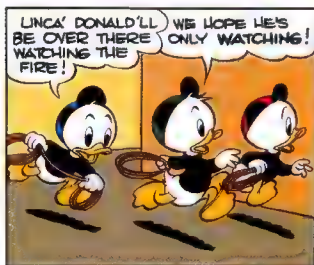
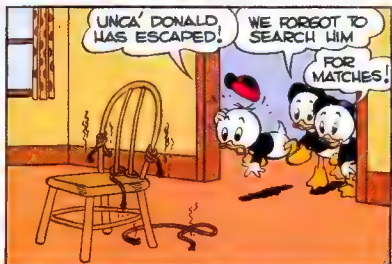
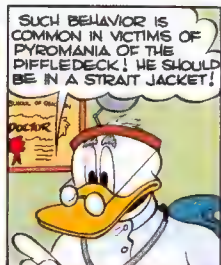
BRRR! IT'S COLD THIS MORNING!

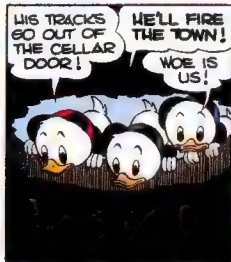
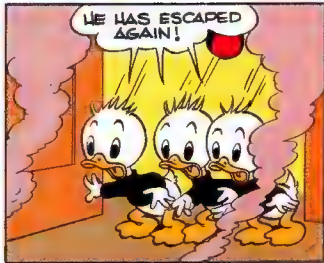
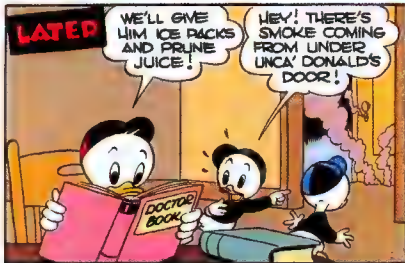
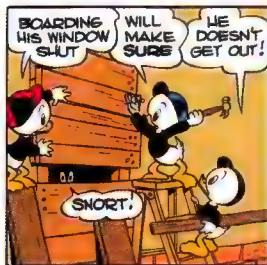
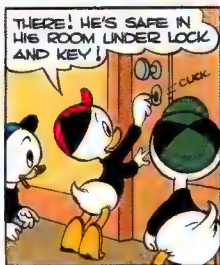
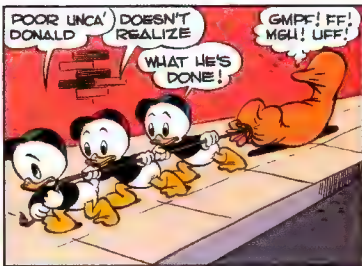
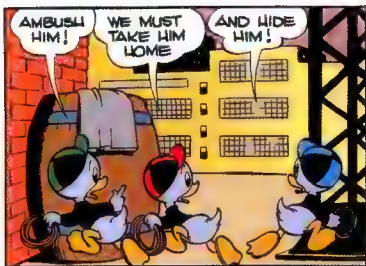
ARE YOU GOING TO START A FIRE?

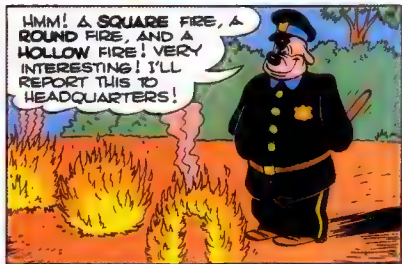
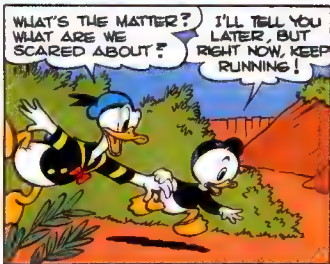
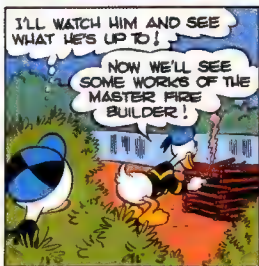
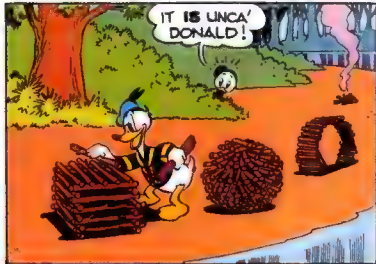
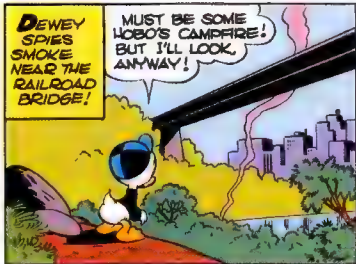
UNCA DONALD?











DONALD
ALLOWS
DEWEY TO
LEAD HIM
HOMEWARD,
BUT, WHEN
THEY ARE
ALMOST
THERE,
THEY
OVERHEAR--

CALLING ALL CARS! BE ON ALERT
FOR DUCK-FACED FIREBUG...THOUGHT
TO BE CRAZY...BUILDS SQUARE
FIRES, ROUND FIRES, AND HOLLOW
FIRES!

YOU HEAR THAT?
THE COPS ARE
AFTER YOU!

THEY'LL NOT GET ME!
I'LL NOT BE LOCKED UP
WHERE I
CAN'T START
FIRES!

STOP, UNCA'
DONALD!
COME
BACK!

NO! NO! I MUST
ANSWER THE CALL
OF THE INFERNO!
I MUST INFLAME
INFLAMMABLES
AND COMBUST
COMBUSTIBLES!

DWEY
FINDS THE
OTHER
KIDS!

-AND THAT'S THE
LAST I SAW OF
HIM! HE WAS
GOING THAT WAY--
TOWARD THE
REFINERIES!

AND THERE
GO THE
REFINERIES!

A SQUARE FIRE!
A ROUND FIRE!
AND A HOLLOW
FIRE!

THAT MUST BE
UNCA' DONALD'S
WORK!

LET'S HOPE
NOT!

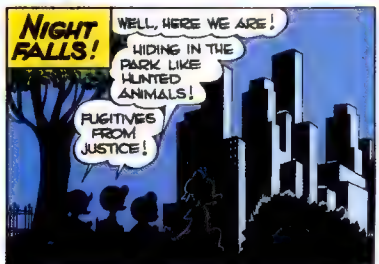
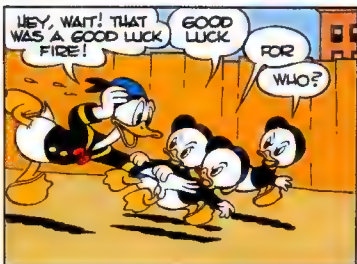
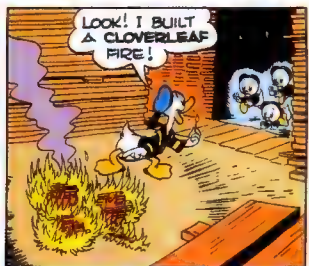
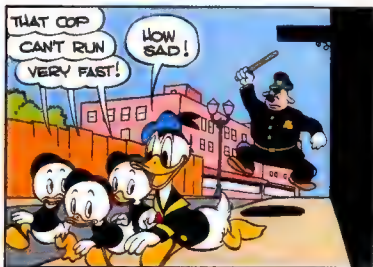
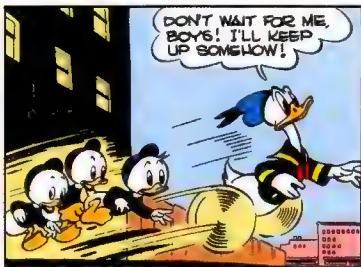
I WON'T
BELIEVE IT
UNLESS I SEE
HIM THERE!

OH! OH!
HE'S THERE,
ALL RIGHT!

WITH A CAN OF
GASOLINE!

MAY WE
HAVE A TALK
WITH YOU,
UNKY, DEAR?

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE
COO-COO FIREBUG
THAT BUILDS SQUARE
FIRES, ROUND FIRES,
AND HOLLOW FIRES!



WHY ALL OF THIS FUSS
JUST BECAUSE I STARTED
A FEW LITTLE FIRES?



LITTLE FIRES!

YOU BURNED
UP

HALF OF
THE TOWN!



I DID
NOT!

WHO ELSE BUILDS
SQUARE FIRES,
ROUND FIRES, AND
HOLLOW FIRES,

LIKE THOSE
REFINERY FIRES?



SOME AMATEUR FIREBUG IS STEALING
MY STUFF!... I INVENT NEW KINDS
OF FIRES!... SQUARE FIRES AND
ROUND FIRES — PHOOEY! THEY'RE
OLD STUFF!



BUT YOU WERE
DOWN BY THE
REFINERIES

WITH A CAN

OF GASOLINE!



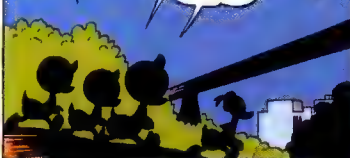
SO WHAT?... I WAS ON
MY WAY TO THE RIVER
TO LIGHT A T-SHAPED
FIRE!... I'LL
SHOW YOU!



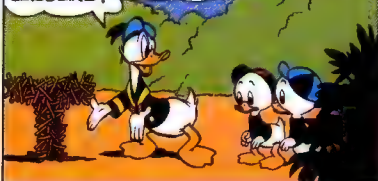
IF UNCA' DONALD
ISN'T SPOOFING,

WE HAVE A
FIRST-CLASS
MYSTERY

ON OUR
HANDS!

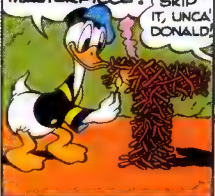


I WAS GATHERING THESE
TWIGGS WHEN THE REFINERIES
STARTED TO BURN! THEN I
WENT UPTOWN FOR SOME
GASOLINE!



THIS IS HARD TO LIGHT
WITHOUT GASOLINE, BUT
HERE GOES — MY
MASTERPIECE!

SKIP
IT, UNCA'
DONALD!

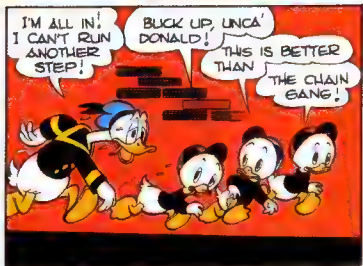
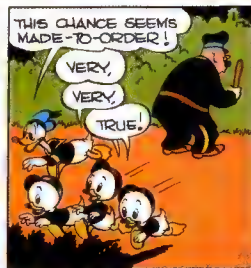
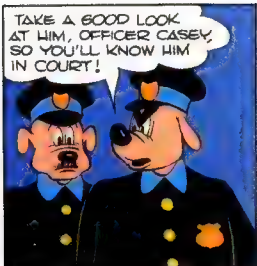


HA! THERE'S A FIRE BY
THE RIVER, WHERE THE
FIREBUG GOES TO
PRACTICE! WE'LL
SLIP UP AND
GRAB HIM!



SO IT'S A T-SHAPED FIRE
THIS TIME, FIREBUG?
STICK 'EM UP!





THE WEARY FUGITIVES TAKE REFUGE IN AN OLD STEEPLE!

WE CAN SEE ANYONE COMING BEFORE THEY GET HERE!

NOW, PLEASE, UNCA' DONALD, DON'T LIGHT A FIRE!

WE WANT TO REST!

I'M MAD! SOMEBODY LIGHTS THOSE BIG FIRES, AND I GET THE BLAME FOR THEM!

NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT YOU IF THAT COP HADN'T SEEN YOU LIGHTING THE SQUARE AND ROUND FIRES BY THE RIVER THIS MORNING!

YEAH! THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT COP! WE LET US GET AWAY JUST NOW!

BUT WHY?

MAYBE HE IS THE FIREBUG! AS LONG AS HE LETS UNCA' DONALD RUN LOOSE, WE CAN BLAME HIM FOR THE FIRES HE LIGHTS, HIMSELF!

BROTHER, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE!

AND NOW WHILE OFFICER CASEY AND THE REST OF THE FORCE LOOK FOR UNCA' DONALD, THIS FIREBUG COP WILL SLIP AWAY AND LIGHT ANOTHER BIG FIRE!

A T-SHAPED FIRE!

WHERE WILL THE FIREBUG STRIKE NEXT?

LOOK! THERE'S A BIG T-SHAPED SOMETHING ON THE WATERFRONT!

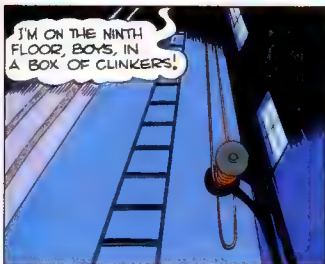
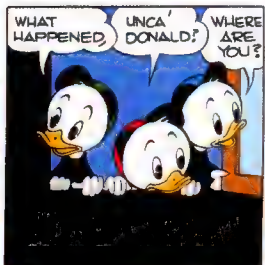
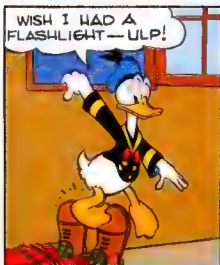
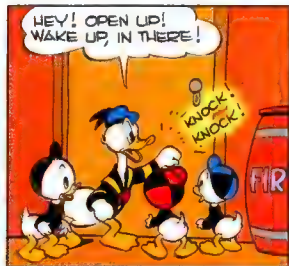
THE COLOSSAL STAR LINE COALING DOCK!

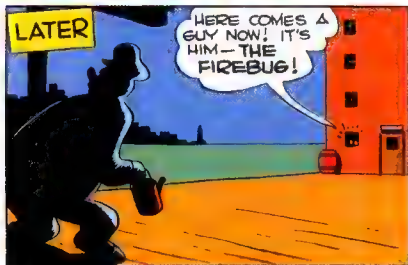
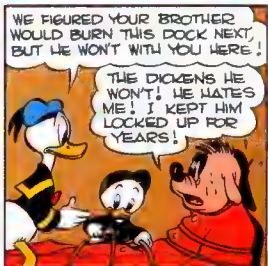
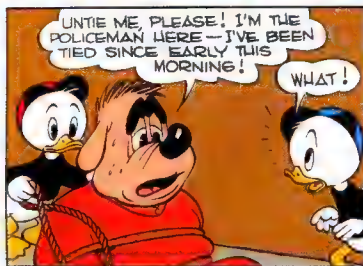
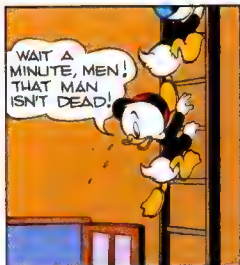
THAT IS WHERE HE IS SURE TO STRIKE!

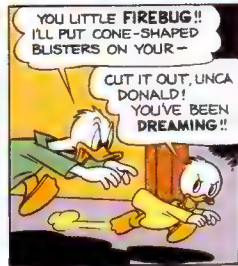
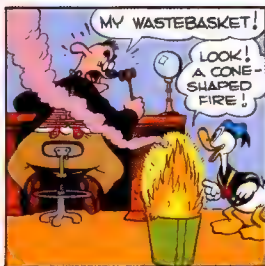
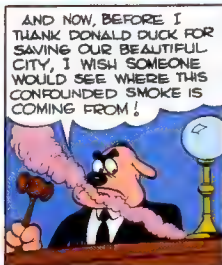
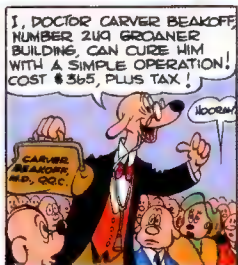
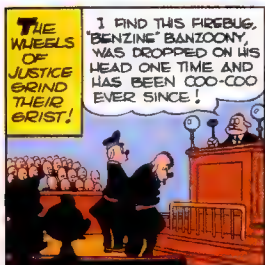
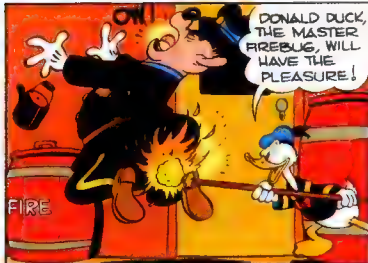
WE MUST GET THERE FIRST

AND TRAP HIM!

MORE RUNNING!







FREE COMIC BOOK - DAY -

SATURDAY, JULY 3

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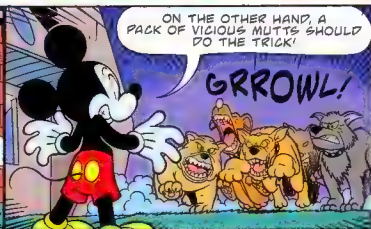
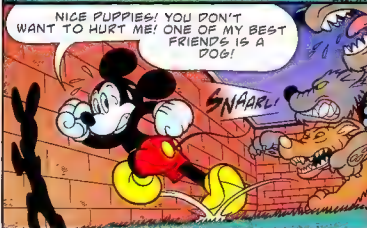
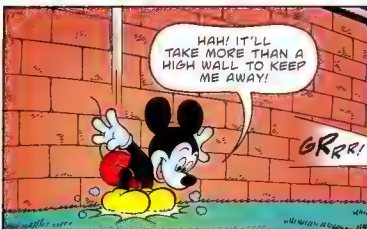
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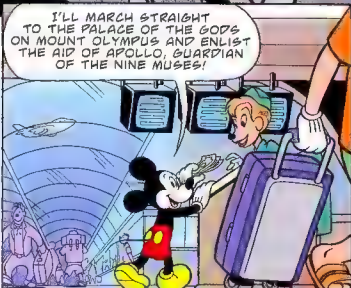
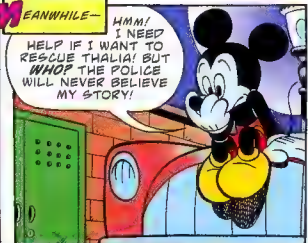
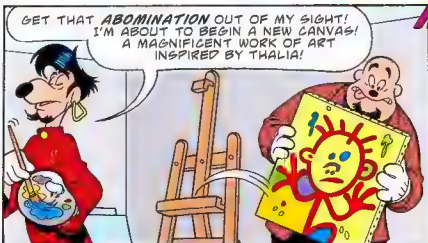
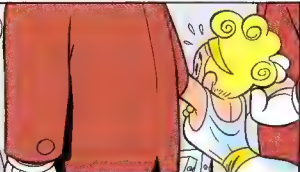
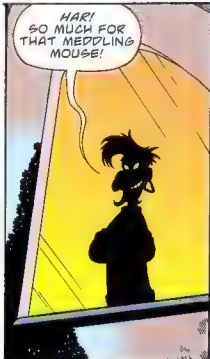
At Participating Retailers Only

MICKEY HAS HELPED THALIA—ONE OF THE IMMORTAL NINE MUSES—ESCAPE FROM THE CLUTCHES OF JOHN JASPERS, A MEDIOCRE ARTIST WHO USED HER GIFT OF INSPIRATION TO BECOME A RENOWNED PAINTER! BUT JUST AS OUR HERO WAS ABOUT TO RETURN THALIA TO HER HOME ON MOUNT OLYMPUS, JASPERS' THUGS CAPTURED HER AGAIN! THUS MICKEY HAS NO RECOURSE BUT TO FOLLOW THEM TO JASPERS' SPRAWLING ESTATE—

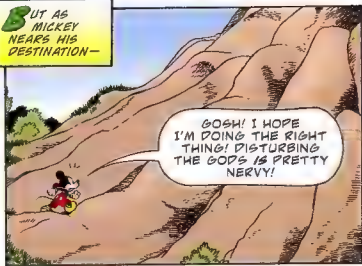
I'LL BET JASPERS THINKS HE CAN HOLD THALIA HERE AS HIS PRISONER! WELL, HE HASN'T BARGAINED ON MICKEY MOUSE!

D 99251



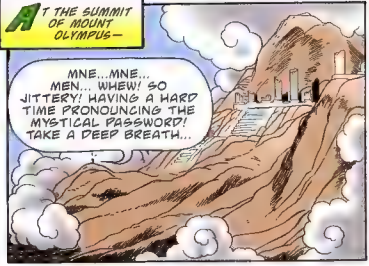


BUT AS
MICKEY
NEARS HIS
DESTINATION—

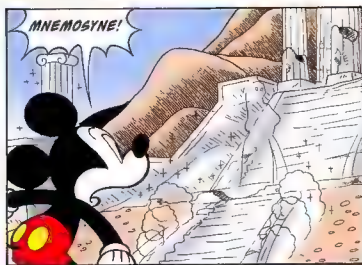


GOSH! I HOPE
I'M DOING THE RIGHT
THING! DISTURBING
THE GODS IS PRETTY
NERVY!

AT THE SUMMIT
OF MOUNT
OLYMPUS—



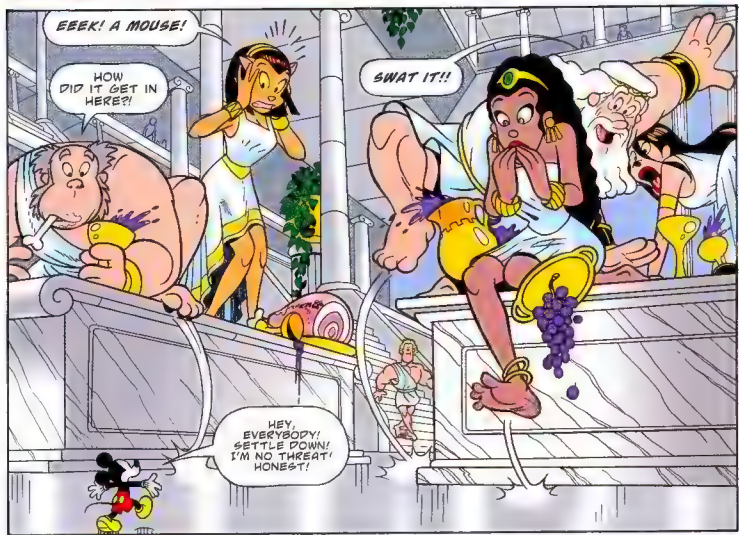
MNE...MNE...
MEN... WHEW! SO
JITTERY! HAVING A HARD
TIME PRONOUNCING THE
MYSTICAL PASSWORD!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH...



MNEMOSYNE!



HOO BOY!
WHAT HAVE I
GOTTEN MYSELF
INTO?

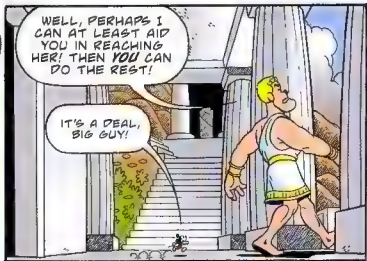
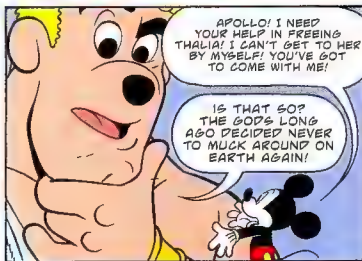
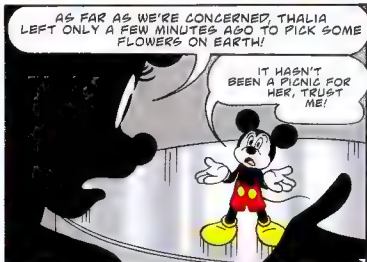
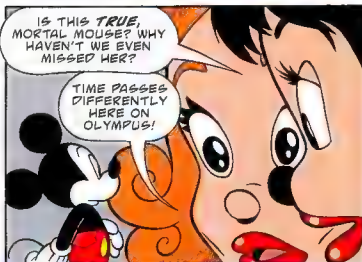
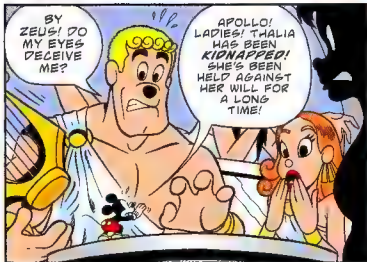
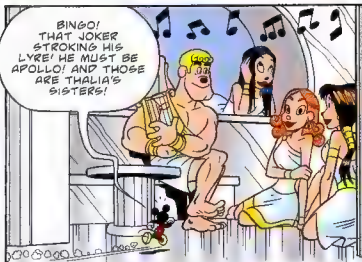
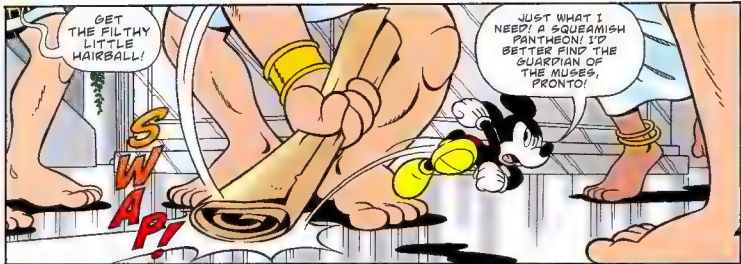


EEEK! A MOUSE!

HOW
DID IT GET IN
HERE?!

SWAT IT!!

HEY,
EVERYBODY!
SETTLE DOWN!
I'M NO THREAT!
HONEST!



BACK ON
THE SUMMIT
OF MOUNT
OLYMPUS—

WELL,
SETTING FOOT
ON GOOD OL'
TERRA FIRMA
REALLY CUTS
YOU DOWN TO
SIZE!

REST ASSURED,
MORTAL, MY POWERS
REMAIN INTACT! NOW...
WHERE TO?!

IT'S A LONG
WAYS! FIRST WE
GOTTA HIKE DOWN
THIS MOUNTAIN!
THEN WE CATCH
A PLANE! AND
NEXT...

ENOUGH!
YOUR PROPOSED
ITINERARY
BORES ME!

WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
DO?

IF WE MUST
TRAVEL, WE'LL
TRAVEL MY WAY!
LOOK!



WHY...
A BIG BIRD'S
CIRCLING
TOWARDS US!
WHAT THE HECK
IS IT? AN
EAGLE? A
CONDOR?!

BEHOLD! PEGASUS!
PET AND PLAYMATE OF THE
MUSES! HOP ON!

BUT I WAS
HOPING FOR A
SEAT IN FIRST
CLASS!

WHAT
SAY YOU NOW,
MORTAL? HAVE
YOU EVER EX-
PERIENCED SUCH
INCREDIBLE
SPEED?

YOW! THIS NAG HAS THE
CONCORD BEAT ALL HOLLOW! AT
THIS RATE, WE'LL GET THERE IN
NO TIME FLAT!

SURE
ENOUGH,
IN NO TIME
FLAT—

THERE'S JASPER'S ESTATE!
HAVE SPARKPLUG HERE SET US DOWN
NICE AND EASY!

GREAT!
YOU DIDN'T
TELL ME THAT
FILLY WAS PART
ROOSTING
PIGEON!

STOP
WHINING,
MORTAL! WHAT
ARE THE
OBSTACLES
YOU SPOKE
OF?

SEE! THESE MUTTS
ARE BLOCKING OUR WAY! HOW
DO WE GET PAST 'EM TO
SAVE THALIA?!

GRRR!

SIMPLE!
WE'LL JUST SHOW THEM
WHO'S THE TOP DOG AROUND
HERE!

I'VE SUMMONED
CERBERUS, THE
GUARD-DOG OF
HADES! HE'S AS
ALPHA MALE AS
IT GETS!

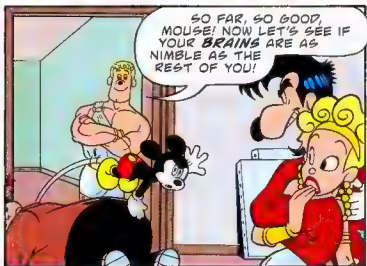
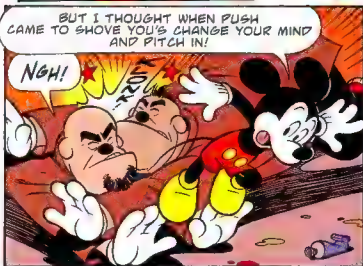
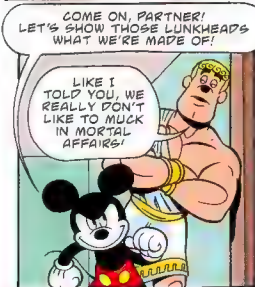
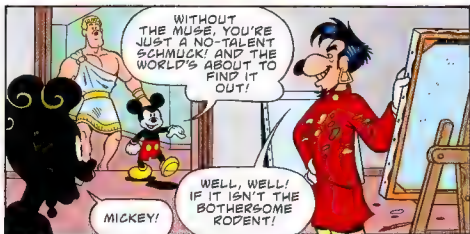
GROOVL!

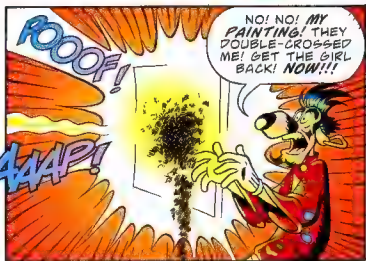
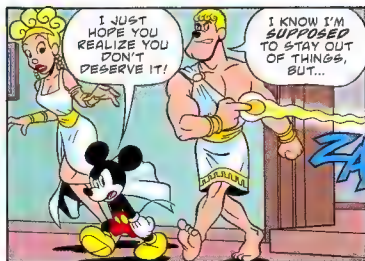
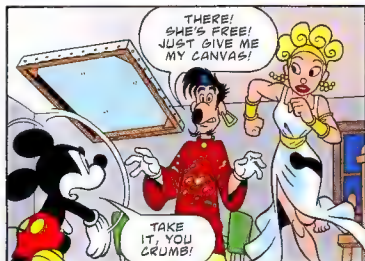
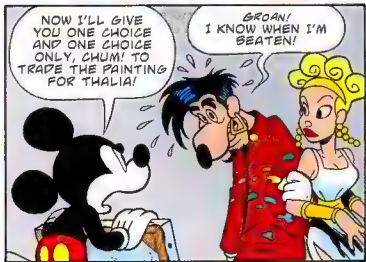
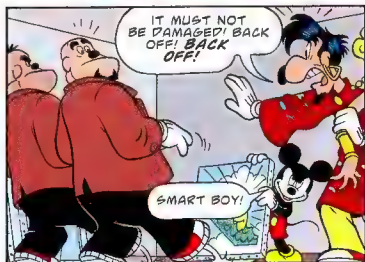
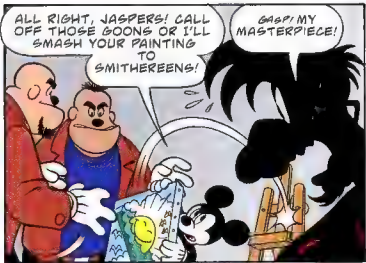
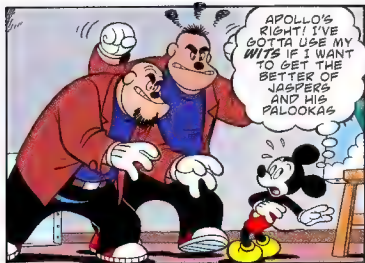
HAH! THOSE WHELPS ARE
SCAMPERING AWAY WITH THEIR
TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS!
GOOD WORK, BOY!

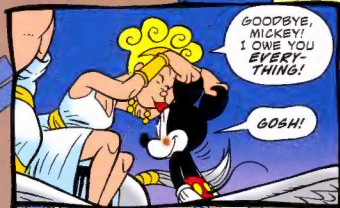
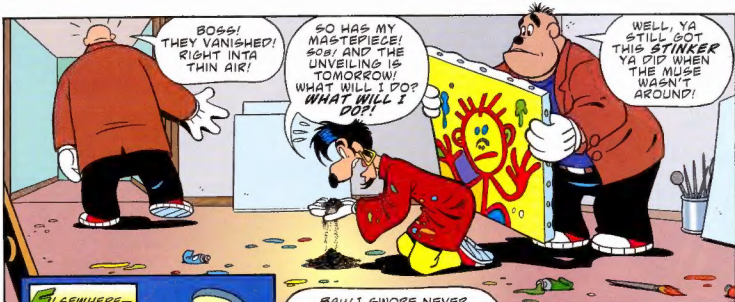
YIP! YIP! YIP!

NOW THERE'S
NOTHING BETWEEN US
AND THALIA! JASPER
HASN'T COUNTED ON
MICKEY MOUSE HAVING
APOLLO FOR A
FRIEND!

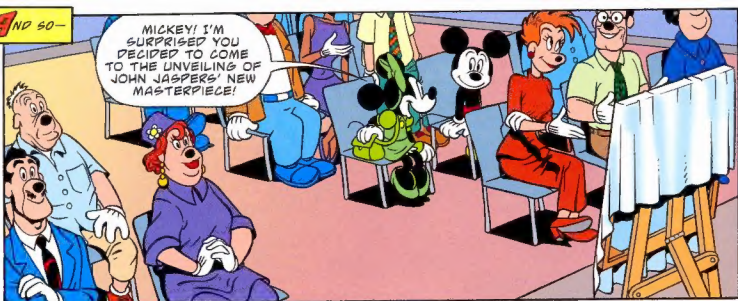
POW!







MICKEY! I'M SURPRISED YOU DECIDED TO COME TO THE UNVEILING OF JOHN JASPERS' NEW MASTERPIECE!



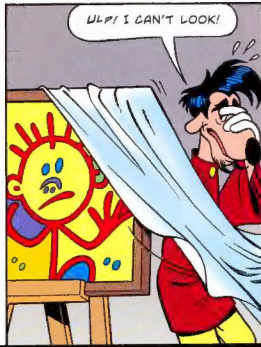
I HATE TO SAY IT, MINNIE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T RESIST SEEING THE CLUCK GET HIS COMEUPPANCE!



UM...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...ESTEEMED ART CRITICS...I HUMBLY SUBMIT MY... UM... LATEST...



UHP! I CAN'T LOOK!



GASP!!!

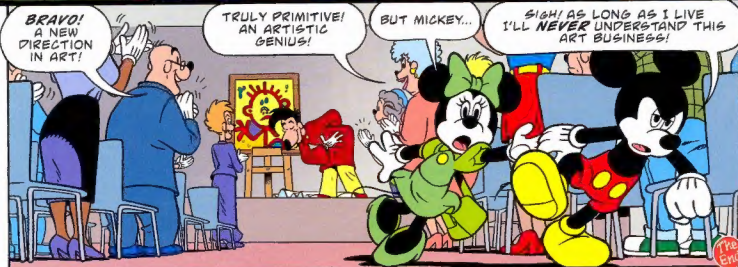


BRAVO! A NEW DIRECTION IN ART!

TRULY PRIMITIVE! AN ARTISTIC GENIUS!

BUT MICKEY...

SIGH! AS LONG AS I LIVE I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS ART BUSINESS!



LETTERS

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

E-mail: wdcsg@gemstonepub.com

Surface mail: WDC&S, 1966 Greenspring Drive Ste. 400, Timonium MD 21093.

"I calmly explained that any event with the word 'Monster' in it was not my idea of a romantic evening to look forward to!" – Daisy Duck, offering some perspective on Monster Truck Rallies and other stereotypical male interests to Donald and the rest of us unromantic brutes, in *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 641.

Hmmm...excepting a "monster box of chocolates," perhaps, she may be right. Gosh, I haven't seen the ordinarily "well-meaning but often clueless" Donald portrayed as such a cloddish boor since the Gold Key *Daisy and Donald* stories by the recently departed Bob Gregory. Though, unlike the typical Gregory effort where Daisy suffered Don's endless quirks, obsessions, and manias, Daisy, too, was ultimately cast as less than exemplary in keeping with today's spirit of "gender equality." By the way, it would be fitting for some sort of tribute to Mr. Gregory – and any former Disney comics stalwart of whose passing we become aware – to appear in these pages.

1970s Gold Key flashbacks aside, it was nice to see Kari Korhonen so perfectly recreate the style of Carl Barks (and Bob Gregory's?) "Daisy Duck's Diary" tales of years gone by. Korhonen has squarely hit the bullseye (...in this case, with a Cupid's arrow!) in each of his two yarns published by Gemstone thus far. Let's see more work from this talented creator, whenever possible.

William Van Horn also contributes to this "book of love" with his superb "Duos and Don'ts," in which he revives – and, to some degree, reforms – his one-time villain Woimly Filcher. At least for Valentine's Day, Filcher appears to have renounced "evil-doing" in favor of mere loutish behavior on the order of...oh, say...Neighbor Jones.

Perhaps Filcher's rehabilitation is destined to be permanent, as he's last seen driving off to new romance and adventure with his anvil merchant lady love, Ms. Teensy Wiffle. Presumably, they've found their happy ending, setting up shop at that "other cartoon studio" where anvils are always in high demand. As the saying goes: "Ain't love grand!"

And, those poor souls who don't believe in love can always hunt Scottish ghosts with Mickey and Goofy, trap pigs with the Big Bad Wolf, set records with Horace Horsecollar, or save eagles with the Junior Woodchucks. Who says this magazine doesn't have something for everyone?!

Joe Torcivia
via email

Bob Gregory was, indeed, one of the better talents at Western Publishing, along with Carl Fallberg, Paul Murry, Al Hubbard and others, who

tend to be overshadowed by the sheer brilliance of the work Carl Barks was producing at the same time. Perhaps a volume of *"The Other Disney Comic Book Legends"* would be in order sometime in the future. Any comments?

The eternally inventive William Van Horn seems to have loosed two more "keepers" from his "magic bag" of newly-created Duck spear-carriers. Both Teensy Whiffle and Gloria de Lovely would be more than welcome in future stories. Since Teensy appears to have "partnered up" with the pre-existing Woimly Filcher, I'd be willing to bet that when Woimly shows up again, she'll be tagging along behind him, anvil collection and all.

I'd love to see more Huey, Dewey and Louie stories – and anything at all, for that matter – from Kori Korhonen. "Lessons in Love" contained the same sort of wry humor that made the more overtly "adventurous" "Sons of the Moon" something out of the ordinary, even for the relatively skimpy genre of Nephews-focused stories. "Sons of the Moon" had a definite "DuckTales" flavor to it – could Korhonen possibly have been influenced by the show while developing his artistic Muse?

Chris Barat
via email

Thanks so much for reviving the line of Disney Comics. You are doing a superb job! *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 641 (February) was your best issue yet. You managed to bring the title back to its glory days in the 1940s and 1950s.

Which brings me to the point of this letter. In my opinion, William Van Horn is a duck artist equal to the legendary Carl Barks. His ability to inject humor into the story, "Duos And Don'ts" in the February issue had me laughing out loud! I think Van Horn is the finest comic artist working today. Please keep publishing the Disney titles, and let the readers know from time to time how successful the line of comics is in the marketplace.

Bill White
via email

We've always thought, both here at Gemstone and in the old days at Gladstone, that Bill Van Horn's abilities as a spinner of Duck yarns is second to none. True, his bent, in both story and art style, leans more to the slapstick than Carl Barks often did, but that's part of what makes his brand of storytelling so appealing.

Thanks to everyone for your letters and input. Keep 'em coming and we'll see you all again in another thirty days.

—John Clark

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We regret we cannot respond to individual letters; however questions of general interest will be answered in our letters column.

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MEET THE NOD SQUAD



Collect
bobbleheads,
wobblers, or
headknockers?



Appearing
daily in
Scoop!



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**THIS JOINT
IS JUMPIN'!**

Scoop